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Israel

Secretary of State Baker met with various Israeli officials 20-21 July, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv radio reported. Included in Secretary Baker's meetings were Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel. According to Jerusalem radio reports Foreign Minister Peres said that "they discussed substantial issues regarding the peace process and the loan guarantees" and that "the conversation was good and that he is optimistic." Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said that "the sides discussed the scope of the guarantees that Israel is requesting from the United States." Tel Aviv radio reported Following Baker's meeting with Palestinian notables, Hanan 'Ashrawi said their meeting with Baker "was good" and that Baker "showed understanding" of Palestinian concerns.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian officials asked the U.S. Administration to resume a dialogue with the PLO, Algiers VOP disclosed. The request was included in a memorandum handed to Secretary of State Baker during his meeting with Palestinian notables in Jerusalem. The memorandum also rejected Israel's "attempt to distinguish between security and political settlements" and said the "most important point at the moment" is halting "all forms of settlement in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem," according to the radio.

Egypt

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held talks today with President Mubarak, exchanging "general views about establishing peace and regional stability," MENA reported. After the talks, both leaders held a news conference, during which Mubarak stated that they discussed the Middle East "problem" and the peace process. Rabin expressed hope that the peace process would continue, saying, "We will find ways during the bilateral talks with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the Syrian and Lebanese delegations, and even with the other Arab parties to create an opportunity for talking to them in the future." Rabin added that "the important thing" is to speed up the peace process and "achieve peace and security for everyone." Rabin stated that he was not in Cairo to reach specific agreements but to exchange views. Rabin admitted that there are "issues on which we differ" but that there are also issues "we agree on," such as finding a solution with the Palestinians inside the occupied territories. Mubarak said there were no objections to holding peace negotiations in Cairo "if all the parties agree to do so." Rabin responded by saying: "We welcome holding the negotiations" at a later date in Cairo. Mubarak said that Rabin's decision to freeze settlement building "is a good step in the right direction" but said that "more is needed." Mubarak added that "we have not changed our position" on the issue of the Arab boycott of Israel in return for halting settlement-building. Mubarak said that he accepted Rabin's invitation to visit Israel. Rabin said he hopes that peace with the other parties will be achieved so that "stability, calm, and prosperity can prevail in the region."

Palestinian Affairs

Baker Meets al-Husayni, Other Notables

U.S. Urged To Resume Dialogue

LD2007192692 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Palestinian national officials in the occupied territories called on the U.S. Administration to resume dialogue with the PLO. This came in a memorandum addressed to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that he received this morning when he met with a delegation of Palestinian officials headed by Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace conference. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks; Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the delegation official spokeswoman; and brothers Ghassan al-Khatib and Sami al-Kilani, delegation members, also attended.

The memorandum stated that the most important point at the moment is halting all forms of Israeli settlement policy in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. It reaffirmed that settlement activities, besides being illegal and illegitimate, contradict the basis of the peace process.

The memorandum rejected the Israeli Government's attempt to distinguish between security and political settlements on the one hand and strategic settlements on the other. It pointed out that such an attempt aims to confer legitimacy on illegal behavior, and that accepting settlement activity of any kind would validate Israel's attempt to impose its sovereignty over the occupied territories.

The memorandum warned against granting Israel U.S. loan guarantees, and demanded that Israel put an immediate and comprehensive halt to all settlement activities, that measures to show respect of human rights be taken, and that progress in peace talks be achieved. It said that granting loan guarantees in the absence of positive and tangible developments will destroy the United States' credibility and will expose the whole peace process to danger.

The Palestinian officials warned against improving U.S.-Israeli relations at the expense of the peace process, following Labor's election victory and the formation of Rabin's government. They said that Israel is required to prove its serious intentions through practical steps that go beyond words and statements.

The memorandum demanded a series of urgent measures to impose respect of human rights in the occupied land as evidence of Israel's serious intentions to halt settlement. First and foremost among such measures is implementing the Fourth Geneva Convention; releasing political detainees; closing down detention camps; allowing deportees to return; lifting restrictions on private economic activity; and abolishing hit squads and other measures relating to Israeli policies of oppression.

The memorandum called on the U.S. Administration to lift restrictions on Palestinian representation in the peace process through participation of Palestinians from Jerusalem and the diaspora in bilateral and multilateral negotiations. It stressed the Palestinians' specific understanding of the transitional period, namely, that it is transitional and provisional within a set time framework and within a strict link and context that leads to full Israeli withdrawal and to exercising Palestinian rights to self-determination, return, and an independent state.

The memorandum stressed that no transitional step should be permitted to jeopardize or have adverse effects on those objectives. It also stated that Palestinian authority in this phase should enjoy control of land, resources and waters and should stand on the basis of elections for a legislative council. It stressed that national elections for such a council and power transfer require international presence to guarantee Israeli noninterference and to protect Palestinian citizens.

The memorandum stressed the need to observe the time framework laid down for the peace process, hence the need to hold elections, under international supervision and protection before 1 November 1992, to be immediately followed by the transfer of power. It stressed the participation of Jerusalemites and of refugees in the nomination and vote-casting processes, in accordance with a Palestinian electoral law. It pointed to the need to achieve fundamental Israeli withdrawals by the time the election campaign is under way.

The memorandum accorded special importance to the topic of Jerusalem and stressed that it should be included in the arrangements of the transitional period. It warned of Israeli practices that altered the demographic, cultural, and legal status of Jerusalem and pointed out that putting an end to such practices and bringing Jerusalem under the laws of the Palestinian transitional period is a clear basis and condition.

The memorandum stressed the Palestinian side's readiness to speed up and intensify bilateral negotiations to make possible observance of the 1 October deadline, the date determined by the peace process that is based on UN Resolutions 242, 338, and on the principle of land for peace.

Baker Visit, Rabin Positions Questioned

TA1707153392 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 17 Jul 92 p 9

[Editorial: "Baker's Tour and Rabin's Proposals!"]

[Excerpts] Various news agencies have been reporting in the past few days about a number of "ideas" that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will bring on his upcoming tour to the region. Those ideas have been described as a package deal that Baker will present to advance the peace process. At the same time, Yitzhaq Rabin, the new Israeli prime minister, has affirmed his government's refusal to completely halt settlement

activity in the occupied territories and to place Jerusalem on the negotiating table. He has refused to link the interim period in the occupied territories to a final solution, and he has also refused to link the negotiations over the interim period to those with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. This is at a time when U.S. officials are saying, in a matter of fact way, that Rabin's proposals form a suitable basis for a speedy agreement with the Palestinians and for progress in the peace process. Those same officials are clearly ignoring the position of the Arab and Palestinian side—the other factor in the peace equation.

The strange thing about Rabin's proposals and Baker's reported suggestions is that the two sides are ignoring the fact that no Arab party taking part in the peace talks, including the Palestinian delegation, is ready to sign a separate peace agreement with Israel, because the letters of invitation to the Madrid peace conference clearly specified that the aim of the talks is to reach a lasting and comprehensive peace on all fronts and that Security Council Resolution 242 is the basis of those talks. [passage omitted]

Washington's readiness to grant the loan guarantees to Israel now—proclaimed by more than one U.S. official—at a time when Rabin has affirmed that settlement activity will not be halted completely, reflecting his differentiation between what he calls "security settlements" and "political settlements," means that the Bush administration has backed down from its previous position and is prepared to provide "legal cover" for some settlement activity. This is totally inconsistent with the administration's presumed role in the peace process. Moreover, the United States is ignoring Resolution 242 by neglecting the need to link the interim period in the occupied territories to a final solution, by disregarding the hardline Israeli position on negotiations over the occupied Golan Heights, and by overlooking Rabin's attempts at separate solutions—all of which contradict the principles of the Madrid conference. This is not so much an indication of a serious move toward peace as an attempt to achieve "any progress," no matter how slim, during the few weeks before the U.S. presidential elections.

We believe that the partial or separate solutions for which Rabin is looking, which are amenable to Washington, cannot constitute a real breakthrough toward peace. Anyone who thinks that the Palestinian or Arab side will abandon the foundations of the peace process and the international resolutions on which that process has been based is mistaken. Any attempt to advance the peace process and achieve progress must be based on those foundations and should also ensure that progress is made on the various fronts of negotiations with the aim of establishing a lasting, comprehensive, and just peace. Moreover, anyone who believes that the Palestinian side is the "weaker side," which ultimately has to make concessions, will discover that Palestinian adherence to the peace process and to international resolutions constitutes the most effective weapon for confronting various pressures to divert the peace process from its real goals.

Commentary—Baker 'Swallowed Rabin's Bait'

LD2007212392 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] Brothers: With Baker's arrival in the Middle East, the region entered a new phase that many political observers dubbed as the phase of implementing the alleged peace proposal—despite the signals coming from the depths of the active circles in Israeli politics that things will not go as Arabs would wish. But Rabin, with his political sophistication and firm conviction, has been able to achieve for Israel what Shamir was not able to achieve with his demagogy; therefore, we are not surprised at reports from Washington that Bush promised Rabin in a telephone conversation that he will make efforts to lift the embargo on the provision of U.S. loans to the Israeli Government.

The attempt to freeze settlement building serves nothing but to throw dust in the eyes. It also serves for Rabin to show himself as a dove regarding Arabs and peace in the Middle East. If we scrutinize Rabin's previous statements and the order of the priorities of his new government, we will find that at the top of the list is the promotion of U.S.-Israeli relations, which have always been good; but Israeli ambitions to extract U.S. aid are endless. Thus, Baker, as it seems from his statements, swallowed Rabin's bait or convinced himself of Rabin's claim to be a dove in order to find justification for his pressure on the Arab side participating in the peace process.

It would be appropriate for Arabs, through their successive meetings at the highest levels, to strongly defend the unity of the Arab position vis-a-vis the realization of international legitimacy and the stipulations of the letters of guarantee received by the sides participating in the peace process from the United States and its Secretary of State Baker, guarantees that are based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principal of exchanging land for peace. [passage omitted]

PLO, Hamas To Hold 'Top Level' Meeting

NC2107081892 Cairo MENA in English 0648 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, July 21 (MENA)—A top level meeting is to be held between PLO officials and the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" to iron out differences between both sides and lay the foundations of a new relationship.

Palestinian ambassador here Sa'id Kamal told MENA that the meeting will be held within the next few weeks, and contacts are under way to choose its venue, either in Tunisia or Jordan.

Kamal said the Palestinian people urged the "Hamas" movement to focus on confronting the Israeli occupation, pointing out that the present time was unsuitable for liquidating grudges between the various Palestinian factions.

Differences between the PLO and "Hamas" escalated in the recent period as "Hamas" rejects the Palestinian participation in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and calls for withdrawing from them and proclaiming jihad (holy war) for liberating Palestine.

Sha'th—Mideast Developments Need 'Further Impetus'

PM1707142892 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 13 Jul 92 p 9

[Mansur 'Atiyyah report: "Dr. Sha'th Tells 'UKAZ: United States Interested In Achieving Peace"]

[Text] Cairo—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, stated that recent developments in the Middle East require a further impetus to arrive to a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

Dr. Sha'th pointed out in an exclusive statement to 'UKAZ that the U.S. Administration is completely interested in the question of achieving peace in the Middle East and believes that Rabin will be more able to move toward peace.

He added that there was evidence of progress in the negotiations, at least regarding the transitional Palestinian government in the occupied Palestinian territories and the position on settlement.

He pointed out that there will be difficulties, that the negotiations will not be easy, and that Rabin will do his utmost to deceive the U.S. Administration by announcing a halt to building political settlements while continuing to build security settlements to obtain the loan guarantees for the $10 billion frozen by the U.S. Administration. But we must deal with the peace process, especially regarding the U.S. Administration's comment about its welcome of the Rabin government, with some caution, because it constitutes a kind of pressure on the Israeli Government. It is worth noting that the United States is interested in peace, but things will not be easy.

Sha'th told 'UKAZ that the loan guarantees question was the fundamental issue which led to Shamir's defeat in the election battle. There were two major reasons: the continuation of the Palestinian intifadah and the loss of the loan guarantees, which resulted in the Israeli economic crisis, a halt to Russian emigration to the occupied territories, and the Russian emigrants' vote for the Labor Party to express their indignation at the economic conditions they experienced following their emigration to the occupied territories.

Dr. Sha'th said that the United States wants Rabin to fulfill the commitments concerning peace, but Rabin will be evasive: This is definite. We do not want Rabin to trap us in the negotiations. So progress in the negotiations must be comprehensive and take place through coordination with all the Arab parties.

Sha'th said that it has been agreed to hold a meeting for the cordon states to be attended by Egypt and representatives of the Gulf cooperation Council and the Maghreb Union, thus making it a seven-member meeting like that held before the Madrid conference.

Fatah Member Views Hamas Relations, Peace Process

PM2007152792 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jul 92 p 8

[Interview with Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks and Fatah member, by Huda al-Husayni; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [al-Husayni] Why are you fighting Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?
[al-Agha] May God forgive you. We fight no one, nor has history recorded against us that we fought anyone. We are trying our best to avoid even attacks on us. We represent the Palestinian people's conscience, and in no way can we and they be in two different trenches. We regard all Palestinian national forces as fraternal forces with whom we always seek to cooperate and coordinate. And in no way can we think about attacking anyone.

[al-Husayni] Are there political reasons behind the infighting taking place between Hamas and Fatah?
[al-Agha] By God, I do not know. You can ask the brothers in Hamas. But I would like to say that we discovered that we were slandered and accused of hatching a plot against their leaders—which is false and untrue. We told them and confirmed to them that that is untrue. And our leadership outside the occupied territories also confirmed this to them, but they used these pretexts to provoke us and to initiate what happened.

[al-Husayni] What did they aim to achieve from what happened?
[al-Agha] Anyhow, we have now reached an agreement with them, an agreement to stop provocations and to form committees to investigate what happened and tackle the outstanding issues. We do not want to open the wounds but, rather, to open a new page. So any questions about the aims of what happened can be addressed to them.

[al-Husayni] Some Hamas members abroad showed us a written order from Yasir 'Arafat to kill and pursue Hamas leaders.
[al-Agha] It is an untrue and false document. And I am completely certain that brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is innocent of that. Fatah and the PLO are innocent of it, because our leadership's assertions have always pointed to the necessity for dialogue and for improving relations between us and Hamas and between

us and all Palestinian forces. The advice has always been to avoid any friction with any Palestinian party, which has been emphasized by Abu-'Ammar personally and by our leadership abroad. And we deny it inside. I do not believe that what they introduced is true, and the document is certainly false. [passage omitted]

[al-Husayni] Is it true that there is an agreement between Fatah and the Americans that Hamas is not entitled to take part in the elections unless they agree to the state....
[al-Agha] I have no knowledge of that at all. You can ask the leadership abroad. But according to my information, I would like to emphasize that that is completely untrue.

[al-Husayni] Do you believe that the elections will be held?
[al-Agha] We are negotiating with the Israelis in order to arrive at a solution to the Palestinian problem—a solution based on Resolutions 242 and 338, which means complete Israeli withdrawal and the achievement of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, especially their right to self-determination and to establish their state. That solution is to be arrived at in two phases:

The first phase is the transitional phase. We insist on our position that we presented to the Israeli side and which we will continue to present. We insist that the Israeli side transfer authority in full to the Palestinian side during the transitional phase through general elections in which a central Palestinian authority would be elected to be the source of authority and to replace the existing Israeli authority.

[al-Husayni] And what if Hamas wins?
[al-Agha] If the brothers in Hamas agree to participate in that political process and if the elections are held and they win, we have no objection. We are democratic and the people are democratic. The Palestinians are the most democratic of the Arab peoples. And whether it is to do with the elections inside or the elections for our councils abroad, we support anyone the people choose, because we submit to the people's will. [passage omitted]

Hamas' al-Zahhar Views 'Sedition,' PLO, Autonomy

PM2007155792 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jul 92 p 8

[Interview with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, "a Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) leader," by Huda al-Husayni; place not given; on 15 July]

[Excerpts] [al-Husayni] Do you as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] not believe that if what is happening in the Gaza Strip extends to the West Bank, it will be the beginning of sectarian sedition?
[al-Zahhar] Actually what is happening is sedition but not sectarian sedition, as is being said. But we hope the infighting will not extend to the West Bank and that efforts will be made now to contain the dispute in the Gaza Strip. So we do not want to be pessimistic and talk about the possibility of its extending to the West Bank, because our wise brothers there and our brothers across the green line (1948) have come together to contain what is happening in Gaza. So it will not be exported to the West Bank.

[al-Husayni] And are there political reasons behind what happened in the Gaza Strip?
[al-Zahhar] What happened in the Gaza Strip is, in brief, the uncovering of a plot to assassinate Islamic figures.

A conditional warning was sent to them (to Fatah), to the effect that if a person is attacked, the response will be in the same manner, and the aim is not to foment sedition, but, rather, to prevent sedition. Killing one Islamic figure or more means adopting a destructive policy, regardless of the difference in views, ideology, or policy. So we should not under any circumstances have recourse to the method of physical liquidation as a policy. But the response to the warning was severe and harsh. A number of leaflets confirming this intention were distributed. We have the documents and we have referred them to the reconciliation committee. So the intention to kill was there. And it was intended to cover the plan by a false agreement, which was announced and then later denied (last month) so that executions or assassinations would not be carried out under a fraudulent agreement. The situation remained as it was until the other side (Fatah) escalated the situation by firing on a mourning ceremony held in Dr. Muhammad Saqr's house to mark his mother's death. Five people were wounded. The situation escalated, and an agreement was signed on 6 July. Then, violations occurred after that. Then, the second agreement was signed yesterday (14 July), and we pray to God to make it a success. [passage omitted]

[al-Husayni] Does Hamas regard the PLO the sole legitimate representative?
[al-Zahhar] I say that the PLO represents the Palestinians politically. But regarding "legitimacy," it does not represent it. When it announces the Islamization of the program and application, it will then become representative of all the Palestinian people, Muslims and non-Muslims. [passage omitted]

[al-Husayni] What do you now call the entity that exists on Palestinian territory?
[al-Zahhar] We say that it is an illegitimate entity.

[al-Husayni] That means that you do not see in Yitzhaq Rabin's arrival as prime minister an opportunity to develop the peace process?
[al-Zahhar] What is all that for? Some people have welcomed Rabin's arrival as though he will bring good. What is the difference between Rabin and Shamir regarding the following subjects: southern Lebanon, the Golan, Jerusalem, settlements, and autonomy.

[al-Husayni] One wants to grant autonomy and the other does not?
[al-Zahhar] Menachem Begin was the first to propose the autonomy subject. Then Shamir proposed it in 1989. So the two want to grant autonomy.

[al-Husayni] Do you not want peace?

[al-Zahhar] We are called Muslims. We belong to a faith called Islam, which is linguistically derived from the word peace. And our greeting on earth is "peace been upon you." And our greeting when we meet God is "peace." The name of our God, whom we obey all the time, is "peace" [one of the 99 attributes of God]. So we are for peace but against capitulation. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Statement, Sermons Incite Friday Prayer Violence

LD1807063892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Yesterday, disturbances broke out in a number of quarters in the capital after Friday prayers leaving three dead and 15 wounded.

What happened in some quarters of the capital was caused, to some degree, by a statement that was plastered on the walls of a number of mosques in the capital. This move was preceded by inflammatory speeches inciting disturbances.

On this particular issue a number of newspapers wondered about the role of the security authorities in confronting the return of the imams who incite violence from the pulpits of the mosques.

Concerning yesterday's events, the authorities reiterated their commitment to stopping any attempt to violate public security and stated that, in line with the state of emergency, instructions were given to the security forces to guarantee public security within the law. The authorities also called on parents to protect their children from the dangers and to stop them from provoking the security forces.

New Disturbances Reported Overnight in Capital

LD2007124692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] On the security level, an APS cable reported there were disturbances in the Diar El Djemaa quarter in Husayn Dey [district of Algiers] following evening prayers last night. Security sources said today that one person was killed and two people were injured in the disturbances.

According to the security sources, elements from the security services intervened and used their weapons to disperse the demonstrators who built barricades with tires.

Meanwhile, eight people were arrested in El Abadia in Ain Defla Province. They were charged with participating in sabotage actions.

Constantine Chief of Police Assassinated

LD2007173992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Nebti Rachid, chief of police in Constantine, was assassinated this afternoon as he was about to leave the al-Fath Mosque in the Pont Pasteur quarter after performing midday prayers. The operation was carried out by unknown armed men.

'Armed Group' Leader Killed in Escape Attempt

LD1807163592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] It was learned today from the command of National Gendarmerie that Cheikh Azzeddine, member of an armed group, was killed yesterday when he was surprised by members from a National Gendarmerie in a bunker situated in Lakhroussa, El Eulma District, Setif Province, as he was attempting to escape. Inside the bunker, they found nine home-made bombs, two guns, 200 bullets, three pairs of binoculars, and other items. The same source added that the National Gendarmerie is currently searching for the members of the group, which might include up to 10 people.

Cheikh Azzedine left his family in March 1990 to go to Afghanistan without notifying his family. The National Gendarmerie indicated that Cheikh Azzedine was reported to be an active member of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front.

Ghozali Appointed Ambassador to Paris

LD2107130992 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1100 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] There is a new Algerian ambassador in Paris, and not a minor one, as he is Sid Ahmed Ghozali. The former Algerian prime minister has just received his appointment. He is the first Algerian head of government to be appointed as ambassador to France since independence. Mr. Ghozali is 55 and spent most of his career with the National Liberation Front.

Egypt

Israeli Prime Minister Rabin Arrives on Visit

Reception at Airport Detailed

NC2107094192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0933 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin arrived in Cairo at noon today for a few hours visit, the first by an Israeli prime minister in six years. He was met at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Culture Minister Faruq Husni, Manpower Minister 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq, and Dr. 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research.

The Israeli prime minister was given an official reception at Cairo Airport, where a band played the Egyptian and Israeli national anthems. Rabin, accompanied by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, reviewed the honor guard and a boy and a girl handed bouquets to the Israeli and Egyptian prime ministers.

Asked by Israeli reporters about his feelings about Rabin's arrival, Sidqi said: I am happy about the Israeli prime minister's arrival in Egypt.

Rabin arrived aboard an Israeli Air Force plane flying the Egyptian flag on its right side and the Israeli flag on its left side. Sidqi accompanied Mr. Rabin to the al-Qubbah Presidential Palace to meet President Husni Mubarak.

A media team of more than 100 journalists and representatives of Israeli radio and television arrived in Cairo earlier today aboard a private plane to cover Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Cairo.

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC2107100792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0951 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Official talks between President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin began this afternoon.

Mubarak Hosts Luncheon

NC2107115792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1143 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak hosted a luncheon for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his delegation at the al-Qubbah Palace at noon today.

Rabin arrived in Cairo earlier today.

Bilateral Relations Discussed

NC2107120492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1132 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Official Israeli Spokesman Gad Ben-Aryeh stated that today's talks between President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin dealt with bilateral relations and Egypt's pivotal role in the peace process. He added that Israel welcomes and urges the Egyptian role as a pioneering and effective one within the context of the Madrid peace conference formula.

The Israeli spokesman told reporters today that Rabin chose Egypt as the first Arab country he would visit as Israeli prime minister and that this choice is significant, which, he said, he believes officials in Egypt appreciate.

He stated that Egypt's special position in the Arab world enables it to promote the peace process, something that will benefit the entire region. He noted several draft plans that could be discussed between Egypt and Israel following this summit. He said the Gaza issue, particularly the "problem of the Canada refugee camp," could be a topic for discussion. He said he was very satisfied with the warm welcome Rabin was given on arrival at Cairo Airport and during the talks.

The Israeli spokesman said Rabin accepted President Mubarak's invitation to visit Egypt as soon as he delivered his speech to the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, noting that the date was fixed through diplomatic channels and in the normal way.

The Israeli spokesman described the Mubarak-Rabin summit as a great achievement that will bring Egyptian-Israeli relations out of the stagnation of the past six years.

Mubarak, Rabin Hold News Conference

NC2107130892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak stated that Egypt does not have any objection to holding the peace talks in Cairo. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated that Israel would welcome holding the peace talks in Cairo. These remarks came in a news conference President Mubarak held with Rabin at the conclusion of their talks, which lasted for approximately three hours.

President Mubarak said: "We exchanged general views about establishing peace and regional stability. We did not get into details, because Rabin has only been Israel's prime minister for one week." He expressed the wish that he succeeds in his work.

President Mubarak said he met Rabin in Cairo about two years ago when he was defense minister and exchanged views with him about Middle East problems.

Rabin said he was happy with President Mubarak's invitation to come to Cairo, adding that it came soon after he took power in his country and he welcomed it.

Rabin said Egypt is playing a principal and historical role; it is a leading country in the Arab region. It has also signed a peace treaty with Israel.

President Mubarak said progress can be made in the peace process in the coming period.

President Mubarak made a statement to reporters at the beginning of the news conference, welcoming Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's visit to Cairo and saying: "I met him before, here in Cairo, about two years ago when he was defense minister." He added: Today we exchanged views on various issues concerning bilateral relations and the Middle East problem. We spent two hours exchanging views on the peace process, which we consider to be extremely important and vital to the entire region.

President Mubarak continued: We appreciate that Rabin has been in his new post as Israeli prime minister for only one week, so we did not enter many details and we do not ask for miracles. We exchanged views about the peace process and the Madrid peace conference and other issues.

President Mubarak expressed his best wishes for Rabin's success in his work, adding: I know that he generally supports peace, and I am very happy about that.

In a statement, Yitzhaq Rabin thanked President Mubarak for inviting him to visit Cairo as soon as he took office to exchange views on regional and bilateral issues and the means to boost the peace process.

He said: In my speech to the Knesset, I said that we believe Egypt can play an important role. Everyone should remember that Egypt was the first Arab country to play a historic role and to reach a peace treaty with Israel. I am grateful to President Mubarak for inviting me to exchange views. I hope the peace process and the process of creating peace within the framework of the Madrid conference will continue.

Rabin added: We will find ways during the bilateral talks with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the Syrian and Lebanese delegations, and even with the other Arab parties to create an opportunity for talking to them in the future.

He stated that Israel is ready to give "but without risking its security and national interests."

Rabin said: The important thing is to speed up the peace process and to find ways to achieve peace and security for everyone.

Ending his press statement, he congratulated President Mubarak on the national July revolution day and extended his best wishes to the president and the Egyptian people.

Responding to a question addressed to both of them about the nature of their talks, the issues of priority discussed, whether they believe it is possible to hold the bilateral talks in Cairo or somewhere else, and also their view of the Syrian role, Rabin said: We are not here to reach specific agreements but to exchange views, taking into account that Egypt is a leading country in the Middle East, a country that is living in peace, which could be a bridge for understanding, not in an official capacity. The official course is defined within the framework of the Madrid peace conference.

Rabin added: We know from before that there are issues on which we differ. There are other issues as well, and I suppose we agree on them, such as, for example, when we talk about finding a solution between us and the Palestinians inside the occupied territories.

Rabin added: We are internationally committed to this. He noted that the agreement between Egypt and Israel was the start of the solutions, adding that, for example, autonomy was the start of a transitional phase.

The Israeli prime minister said that there were other issues that have not been discussed before with President Mubarak.

Responding to the same question, President Mubarak said: There is no difference between what Mr. Rabin said and my ideas. We are moving in the same direction. But we should consider the fact that Mr. Rabin only took office last week, and therefore we cannot talk now about priorities. But we are generally looking toward peace and moving peace forward.

President Mubarak stated that there are no objections to holding the peace negotiations in Cairo if all the parties agree to do so. He said: If they want to hold the negotiations in Cairo, we welcome them. If they want to go somewhere else, this is their affair.

Commenting about this, Rabin said: I told President Mubarak that Israel is committed to holding peace negotiations anywhere. But we welcome holding the negotiations at a later stage in Cairo and there are no problems with this.

Responding to another question about his comments on Egypt's policy—which adheres to the need to implement international resolutions on trading land for peace—Rabin said: I am an Israeli; therefore, I am not in a position to evaluate Egypt's policy. This is an issue for Egypt to decide. But if we are talking about Israel, it has the right to discuss its own policy. As we know, there is agreement over the Madrid conference. There are also face-to-face bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Jordanian- Palestinian delegation, the Syrian delegation, and the Lebanese delegation.

He pointed out that the second stage will be the multilateral talks to which many countries have been called to attend. The multilateral talks will address regional issues. He said: As we know, Syria has refused to participate in these negotiations. As for Israel's stand, a letter of invitation has been addressed to Israel by the two cosponsors of the conference. Reference was made in the letter to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for negotiations.

Rabin continued: The two resolutions were the basis for the Camp David accords, irrespective of the different interpretations of these two resolutions.

President Mubarak described his talks with Rabin as "very important." He said that they exchanged viewpoints and discussed all issues.

But President Mubarak added that Rabin has only been prime minister of Israel for one week, and we should not ask for more from him now. We should give him more time. He added: Rabin knows our clear and firm concepts, but I do believe we can make some progress in the peace process.

Answering a question about Egypt's view of Israel's recent decision to freeze settlement-building in the occupied territories and whether this is considered a big step on the part of Israel, President Mubarak said: Regarding Rabin's decision to freeze settlement-building, we think that it is a good step in the right direction and we appreciate it, but more is needed.

Regarding the U.S. loan guarantees to Israel, President Mubarak said: This matter concerns the two countries and I do not want to interfere in it. We did our utmost to

persuade the Arab states to go ahead with the negotiations. We also exerted a lot of effort before, during, and after the Madrid peace conference to persuade the Arab parties to go ahead with the peace negotiations, which we think are important and vital to the region.

Answering a question about ending the Arab boycott of Israel in return for the freezing of settlements, President Mubarak said: We have not changed our position on this.

Answering a question from one of the journalists about whether Egypt will undertake a mediation role between Israel and Syria, President Mubarak said: Egypt's role in the peace process is not only known to the Arab states but to the entire world. I already pointed out that we have made great efforts to persuade the Arab parties to go ahead with the peace negotiations, which we consider important and vital. Syria is a fraternal country, and we are trying to help between Syria and Israel.

The journalist who posed the question retorted: What about mediation?

President Mubarak responded: What is the difference between help and mediation? On the contrary, help involves many aspects through which we are trying to narrow the differences between the two parties. But this does not reach the point of exerting pressure, because Syria is a fraternal country with which we can talk and exchange views. We also maintain contacts with Israel. Therefore, we can help the two sides.

Commenting about the same question, Rabin said: As I said before, Egypt was the first country that sought the road of peace, ending wars, and holding bilateral negotiations with Israel face to face. That was the basis for holding the Madrid peace conference; namely, bilateral negotiations.

Rabin added: Still, the process of creating peace concerns the main parties to the problem and negotiations between Israel and the concerned parties.

The Israeli prime minister added: We have peace with Egypt, and therefore it is natural to exchange views about the issues between Israel and the Arab countries. He added that bilateral negotiations are the main tool of achieving peace. He said: There are issues, such as autonomy, where we have to reach agreements, even for a transitional period, through bilateral negotiations.

Responding to a question about whether President Mubarak was invited by Rabin to visit Israel, President Mubarak said: Mr. Rabin invited me to visit Israel, and I will do so at the appropriate time in response to this invitation.

President Mubarak was asked whether he feels optimistic after his talks with Rabin, especially as his excellency refused before to meet with former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir due to the latter's intransigent policy. He said: I am not now in a position to create problems. I met with Rabin before when he was Israel's defense minister. He is now Israel's prime minister, and we discussed all the issues related to the peace process.

Replying to a question about Israel's refusal to acknowledge Palestinian rights in accordance with the UN resolutions, even though Israel itself was created by a UN General Assembly resolution, Rabin said: You are taking us back to history. Thank God you did not go back to the Bible era. But I tell you that all the peoples and countries in the region have, very regrettably, suffered from many wars, pain, bloodshed, and terrorism. I believe that the time has now come for all the other countries in the region to be guided by Egypt's and Israel's peace example, to end the confrontations and devote efforts to the peace cause.

Rabin added: Israel hopes to achieve peace. We are now busy with contacts and negotiations that are leading to an achievement of security and peace. Let us leave the past. We are now dealing with a new reality and framework, the Madrid peace conference.

The Israeli prime minister expressed hope that peace with the other parties will be achieved so that stability, calm, and prosperity can prevail in the region.

Responding to a question, President Mubarak said: I did not refuse to meet with Shamir. Preparations were under way for this meeting 10 days before the Israeli elections. But in their aftermath, Rabin's victory and his becoming prime minister, the meeting was not held.

President Mubarak added: We told Shamir that we hoped if there were such a meeting he would do something fruitful to show for it, thus giving hope to the peoples of the Middle East. That was our view.

On whether any decisions were made to improve relations between Egypt and Israel during today's talks with Rabin, President Mubarak asked: What decisions do you want me to make to improve relations between Egypt and Israel? We have diplomatic relations with them and many Israeli tourists visit Egypt. If there are any problems, I am ready to solve them.

In reply to a question on whether Rabin's visit could be regarded as a new page in the two countries' relations, President Mubarak said: Of course it is.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, head of the press bureau in the presidential office, stated before the news conference that today's talks between President Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin lasted 90 minutes, during which they had a working luncheon.

He added that Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi attended the luncheon banquet.

Rabin Visits Tomb of Unknown Soldier

NC2107154892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1524 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visited the tomb of the unknown soldier today, accompanied by Dr. 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research and the head of the escort of honor.

Rabin laid a wreath on the monument and another one on the tomb of late President Anwar al-Sadat.

Rabin also visited the Jewish synagogue in Cairo and was accompanied by Dr. 'Izz and Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Ephrayim Dowek.

Departs for Israel

NC2107153292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1526 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left Cairo this evening to go back to his country after a short visit to Egypt lasting a few hours during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Culture Minister Faruq Husni; 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq, minister of manpower and training; and 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research, saw Rabin off at Cairo International Airport.

The Israeli prime minister was accorded an official sendoff at Cairo International Airport. The Egyptian and Israeli anthems were played, and both prime ministers reviewed the guard of honor. Rabin then shook hands with the officials seeing him off.

Musa on Rabin Visit 'Implications'

JN2107070792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0535 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi in Brussels on 20 July]

[Text] [al-Yahyawi] Mr. Minister, welcome to Radio Monte Carlo. Our first question is: What is the latest concerning European-Egyptian cooperation in light of Europe's new inclination to use Egypt as a laboratory for its Mediterranean cooperation policy?

[Musa] The EC cooperates with a large number of Mediterranean countries. I do not think that Egypt is being used as a laboratory, as you put it, for this cooperation. But Egypt is the other side with which the EC talks about various political affairs, economic cooperation, the peace process, Mediterranean affairs, and the role of the Balkan states in the overall security and stability in the region. Today's meeting with the EC is, therefore, important. We will discuss various issues of mutual concern: the peace process, Bosnia-Hercegovina, economic cooperation, and the Mediterranean forum.

[al-Yahyawi] Do you think Secretary James Baker is this time carrying new ideas to activate the peace process?

[Musa] This depends on what Secretary Baker carries in his bag. There are new developments, namely, the change of the Israeli Government and the predicted change in the Israeli method of action. Rabin, of course, is different from Shamir. The policy of the new government and its head and Rabin's positions on the various topics on the table of the talks are different. This development revived hopes that the peace process will be activated. Today's meeting with Europe—and Europe is an important party to the peace process—tomorrow's meeting with the Israeli prime minister and the meeting with the U.S. secretary of state Wednesday are all parts of the preparations for the peace process. Our aim is to place this process once again on the right track to discuss the Middle East problem.

[al-Yahyawi] Rabin's visit to Cairo tomorrow has many indications. What do you think are the potential implications of the visit?

[Musa] Its implications are important. We will listen to the views of Israeli Prime Minister Rabin about issues he has already spoken about, as well as other subjects on the table. We have our own viewpoints on these issues, whether the settlement activity or the need to negotiate and make progress on all fronts, particularly the Palestine question, which needs a great deal of attention and concern. There is also the subject of the Syrian Golan Heights. We do not think there is any hesitation about full Syrian sovereignty over the Golan and complete Israeli withdrawal from the Heights. Southern Lebanon should also feel secure under Lebanese sovereignty. As I said, Palestinian rights should also be addressed. There is, first, the subject of autonomy, which must be complete, serving as an interim phase until a final solution is reached. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination should be considered. The subjects of Israeli withdrawals must be discussed in accordance with the principle of inadmissibility of occupying territories by war.

[al-Yahyawi] Talking about settlements, what is Egypt's position on what Rabin terms political and security settlements in the occupied Arab territories?

[Musa] I think you heard what I said earlier, namely, that we do not differentiate between some settlements and others. We do not recognize tactical settlements and strategic ones, white settlements and black ones. We are talking about all settlement activity as an illegal act threatening peace. The fact is that if the settlement activity continues, it will be difficult to view the peace process correctly or push it ahead, unless the aim was to affect the subject of withdrawal and divide the territory. In this case, we would have made a wrong start. There must be full halt to settlement building. I believe what the Israeli prime minister has said about this subject is not decisive. We are now discussing this before meeting with Rabin. But this will be one of the points of discussion during the meeting; we will ask Rabin about his exact position on this subject.

[al-Yahyawi] Mr. Minister, the Arab-Israeli peace trip was started in Madrid on the basis of President Bush's initiative—namely, a land-for-peace exchange and the implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Has the course of this trip been changed after the obstruction of the bilateral talks?
[Musa] The bilateral talks were not obstructed; they were suspended until after the Israeli elections were held. My understanding is that these bilateral talks, as well as the multilateral talks, will be resumed. The whole exercise is based on the principle of land for peace. The negotiations and all practical measures are meant to reach a result, a peace agreement involving withdrawal, self-determination, security measures, and everything.

[al-Yahyawi] What will be the implication of granting the U.S. loan guarantees to Israel on the U.S. election campaign?
[Musa] Nothing in this respect has been decided yet. It all depends on the clarity of the situation in the Middle East. There has been no decision to grant the loan guarantees so far, which is left until we reach a result and see how things develop.

[al-Yahyawi] How do you expect the upcoming phase of the Arab-Israeli peace talks to be and what about coordinating the entire Arab situation?
[Musa] Concerning coordination, it will be achieved at the end of this month. All Arab parties participating in the negotiations will meet in Damascus to discuss the developments and coordinate positions. There is progress in terms of Arab coordination and exchange of views. On the other hand, a number of issues related to the circumstances surrounding the negotiations must be discussed. These include the Israeli position, the developments of the U.S. elections, and many other things.

[al-Yahyawi] There is also coordination with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].
[Musa] The GCC will be represented at the Damascus meeting.

[al-Yahyawi] On another topic, how far has the seven-member Arab committee gone in its efforts to solve the Lockerbie problem?
[Musa] Progress has been made, or is being made. We hope we will be able to stop any escalation of this problem and reach a satisfactory solution based on international legitimacy and taking into consideration the interests of the Libyan brothers.

[al-Yahyawi] Are the Libyan proposals acceptable to the concerned Western countries?
[Musa] Contacts are still active; they have not yet reached a specific result. I, therefore, will refrain from discussing this subject so as to give calm diplomacy a chance.

[al-Yahyawi] Do you think the developments in Algeria have any bearing on the situation in Egypt?
[Musa] The developments in Algeria, as an Arab country, affect the situation in the entire Arab world. The Lebanese developments, for example, affected the whole Arab world. We are supposed to be a united body. This is how the Algerian developments affect us. But concerning the Algerian situation itself, we hope that the Algerian people and state will see stability and overcome the current crisis successfully. Algeria is an important fraternal state playing an appreciated role in the Arab world and the Third World. We, therefore, have great hopes that the brothers in Algeria will manage to overcome the current difficult stage.

[al-Yahyawi] Thank you.

'Great Opportunity' for Peace Noted

NC1907115992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—The Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR expressed the belief that the Israeli prime minister has a great opportunity to restore calm and peace to a region that has been living on the edge of a volcano for almost half a century. During this time, the Israeli people lacked a sense of security and safety due to a hostile policy that knew only killing, destruction, and the usurpation of Arab lands.

The paper notes the importance of Tuesday's meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and President Husni Mubarak, writing: We would like to ask Rabin some questions. Was the life the Israeli people are living envisioned by those who dreamed of establishing a Jewish state in this region? Apart from the forceful slogans and the policies of bigotry, arrogance, and extremism that his predecessor Shamir insisted on, does Rabin believe that there is any chance for peace with the Palestinians and Arabs? How long will the regional balance of power remain in Israel's favor and allow it to impose its wishes, policies, and greed by force? What kind of peaceful coexistence and cooperation can a state hope for if it relies on a policy of iron and fire? What kind of peaceful coexistence and cooperation would be accepted by a people who were expelled from their land while Jews from the around the world occupied it, and who lack even food and shelter?

Daily Views Rabin's 'True Intentions'

NC2107114992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 21 Jul 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR's editorial deals with today's meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Yitzhaq Rabin. It says: We do not deny that many statements by the new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin coming out of Tel Aviv suggest that there are about to be changes in the Jewish state's policy and that the radical and extremely bigoted stands—the hallmark of the former Likud government and its leader Yitzhaq Shamir—will be the relics of an ill-reputed past.

The paper adds: Statements by various Arab circles, including Cairo, Damascus, and even some Palestinian

elements have enhanced the wave of optimism created by Rabin's statements and viewed them as an unfamiliar shift from the extreme position that has been hardening since the Likud Bloc took power in Israel in 1977, first under Begin then under Shamir's leadership.

The paper continues: Today, President Husni Mubarak meets the Israeli leader in Cairo in the first encounter between them since the new Tel Aviv government was formed. The trip is an intense working visit, during which the two leaders will discuss various aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, foremost among which is the Palestinian issue, naturally, the core and essence of the entire Middle East problem. The Mubarak-Rabin meeting will offer a good chance to get to know some of the Israeli prime minister's true intentions, which might indicate the success or failure of the bilateral peace talks due to be held in the Italian capital soon.

The paper believes that Rabin choosing President Husni Mubarak as the first Arab leader he would meet after becoming leader of the Israeli Government and choosing Cairo as the venue show appreciation for Mubarak's and Cairo's role in supporting and pursuing every effort to restore peace to a region that was about to forget tranquillity and security for dozens of years.

Dailies Preview Secretary Baker's Mideast Tour

Impact on Peace Process Viewed

NC1707175692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH wrote that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's upcoming tour of the Middle East region—during which he will visit Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia and meet with Palestinians—comes amid a new atmosphere among the parties to the Middle East conflict.

In its editorial, the paper points out that Baker is visiting the region after Yitzhaq Rabin's Labor Party election victory and the formation of a new Israeli government. The paper adds that this government should help to revive the peace efforts and place them within a framework that guarantees the required results as soon as possible. Foremost of these results should be realizing a great historic reconciliation and ending practices that harm peace, as President Mubarak stated in his letter to Rabin marking Rabin's government being formed.

The paper adds: On the other hand, we notice that the Arabs have used this time to meet on and to coordinate the bilateral and multilateral talks. This discussion will be crowned by the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries involved in the peace talks to be held in Damascus this month.

The paper affirmed that Baker's tour of the region will undoubtedly reveal new aspects of the peace process and will prove whether there is a serious desire in the Israeli Government to board the ship of peace and steer it toward regional stability and peace, or whether they are merely using new expressions and launching new initiatives.

'New Political Climate' Cited

NC1807115192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0617 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM wrote that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour of the Middle East to start tomorrow, Sunday, can be viewed from many angles. It can be seen as an attempt to exploit the new political climate in Israel and the Arab region, the common ground of which is a desire to revitalize the negotiating process and to move it away from deadlock.

In its comment today, the paper adds that Baker's tour provides an opportunity to discover more about the new Israeli vision after the formation of Yitzhaq Rabin's government and that government's ideas on freezing settlements or stopping them and other issues relating to the process, such as securing U.S. loans to Israel.

The paper adds that Baker's tour coincides with a critical stage in the U.S. presidential elections, believed to be evidence of President Bush's insistence on continuing the political settlement process in the region, despite the claims and complications that might be raised before the next stage of President Bush's campaign.

AL-AHRAM said these issues undoubtedly make Baker's tour an important event, but that the most important step is to exploit the positive aspects, be they on the level of political settlement or Arab-American relations.

'Feelings of Optimism'

NC1907120092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 19 Jul 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In its editorial, "The Policy of Accurate Accounts," AL-JUMHURIYAH writes: U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrives in Israel today on the first leg of his tour of the most important countries in the peace conference. This tour comes less than a month after the Israeli elections and one week after Yitzhaq Rabin formed a new Israeli government, replacing the Likud government that was defeated in the elections.

The paper continues: Baker's tour comes amid feelings of optimism regarding the peace process after the fall of Likud and its allies and the victory of Labor and its supporters.

The American newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES reports that President Husni Mubarak decided to meet Rabin on Tuesday, within a framework of calculated

optimism, in the hope of activating the peace process, especially now that Rabin has become Israel's prime minister.

The paper says that politics has no room for optimism or pessimism, only the science of political accounting based on accuracy, comprehensiveness, the monitoring of positive developments, and the definition of their trend. These are the characteristics that have distinguished Egypt under the leadership of President Mubarak—whether in the Arab, regional, or international arenas—especially in the peace process and the realization of regional stability.

The paper adds: All of this is happening because Mubarak's Egypt clearly, accurately, and decisively defined its goals, foremost of which is realizing a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace. Mubarak has affirmed many times that the major factor is the land-for-peace principle. All parties must adhere to the results of this principle. Certain steps are also required, such as halting settlements, Palestinian self-rule, and others.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes: In view of these accurate accounts, detached from optimism or pessimism, Egypt is pushing the peace process forward for one simple reason: Developments all around us and throughout the world confirm that peace is the only way. No one will be able to halt its course or stand in the way of its achievement.

Daily Views Bush Nuclear Arms Initiative

NC1807115392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0614 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says it was normal for Egypt to welcome U.S. President George Bush's initiative on nuclear weapons, saying that it gives priority to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, calls for reinforcing the existing system of safeguards, and recommends an increase in the UN role. A boost in the UN role is necessary, the paper notes, following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact and the end of the cold war.

In its editorial today, the paper adds that Egypt has always urged the destruction of all weapons of mass destruction and signed international agreements limiting the spread and production of nuclear arms. Egypt has always believed that scientific achievements and human efforts should be channeled toward peaceful purposes.

The U.S. President's initiative, AL-JUMHURIYAH writes, is in line with that made by President Husni Mubarak in April 1990. Mubarak has always called for the Middle East becoming a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Mubarak has called on every country in the region to sign the Treaty on the Non- proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The paper calls on every country that has not signed the Treaty to do so immediately, because such a move would improve regional and international confidence, pave the way for eliminating all weapons of mass destruction, reinforce international stability, and spare billions of dollars that could be used for development and growth.

Mubarak Meets With U.S. AID Official 18 Jul

NC1807133792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 18 Jul (MENA)—This morning at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria, President Husni Mubarak met with Dr. Ronald Roskens, head of the U.S. Agency for International Development [AID], currently visiting Egypt.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Robert Pelletreau; and members of the delegation accompanying the U.S. AID official.

Article Views U.S.-Arab Relations, Iraqi 'Coup'

NC1907131392 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 15 Jul 92 p 57

[Article by Faruq al-Tawil: "Leave Slobodan Alone, and We Will Overthrow Saddam For You"]

[Excerpts] Is America still the enemy of the Arabs? Arabs and non-Arabs think so. There are some who believe out of conviction and on the basis of evidence that America is hostile to Muslims. Others believe out of conviction and on the basis of evidence that it is feeding religious extremism. This is shown by the way it embraced Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman [alleged spiritual guide of the al-Jihad group in Egypt]—his U.S. passport and his marriage to an American. Why is it not possible to say that the Arabs are hostile to America? It is because America is the only one in the world—the entire world—that acts, and it does not just act against the Arabs or the Muslims. America acts, and the Arabs react. [passage omitted]

It has been said that America incited Saddam against Khomeyni; tortured Muslims with their leaders and their money; revived an Arab-Persian military conflict between Iran and Iraq that lasted for 10 years and bled them almost completely; and assisted Saddam and blockaded the Gulf with its fleet so that Saddam would emerge victorious and Khomeyni would suffer defeat, stop the fighting, and die. America is the one that provoked and facilitated Iraq's attempt to invade Kuwait, warned the amir of Kuwait to leave his country, and then mobilized international forces to punish Saddam and launch "Desert Storm" with Arab, Japanese, and German money.

The Iraqi opposition has held its fourth or fifth conference to confirm that the Iraqi people are oppressed and that there are outside forces helping to keep Saddam in power. It is also being said that King Husayn is conspiring against Saddam and is continuing the role he

began in August 1990 by inciting Saddam to invade Kuwait. At the same time, it is being said that King Husayn is financing and participating in plots against him. U.S. intelligence confirms that it is behind the coups and the other wishful rumors spread by the American media from time to time with the second anniversary of the mother of battles and the American elections both approaching. Bush promised to have Saddam's head before the elections. News about purges in the army always comes from America and is quickly highlighted in the Kuwaiti press. This is despite the fact that the Kuwaitis, who applauded Bush, believe that these are American games, that America would have toppled Saddam if it had wanted to, and that Saddam is an American product kept in power to frighten and blackmail the Gulf states.

How important will America be after the Iraqi "monster" is gone? They spent a great deal to make him and to strengthen his teeth and muscles at Arab expense, and today they are breaking his teeth at Arab expense. America supplies the Gulf states with weapons because they are afraid of Saddam, even though it swears that he is now harmless. Even news about Saddam's defiance of the nuclear inspectors is beneficial to his image, making him an example of Arab defiance of America. Even the news about him foiling coups exaggerates his strength. King Husayn says he has no knowledge of any coup in Iraq. The newspapers that have close contacts with U.S. intelligence say that he is in trouble with Saddam, that Saddam will stop supplying him with oil, and that America will force him to back a coup against Saddam.

What is certain is that Saddam will celebrate the third anniversary of the mother of battles and his victories over the world's armies and will nurture Arab hatred against America and the West. Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia's Saddam, has occupied Bosnia- Hercegovina and watered the tree of Arab hatred for the West. The West adopts a position toward us as if to say: Leave Slobodan alone, and we will overthrow Saddam for you. [passage omitted]

World Bank President Arrives for Three-Day Visit

NC1907185392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—World Bank President Louis Preston arrived in Cairo this evening for an official three-day visit. In an arrival statement, he said the World Bank will offer all possible assistance to bolster the economic reform program in Egypt, adding that he will discuss this issue with the relevant officials.

Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, who greeted the World Bank official on arrival, said they will discuss the economic reform program and the funds that the World Bank will provide to enhance development and any new facilities to support the social fund. Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, was also on hand to greet the World Bank official.

Meets With President Mubarak, Officials

NC2007143592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met with World Bank President Louis Preston this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister for cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Dr. 'Ubayd said the World Bank president stressed the Bank's support for the Egyptian economic reform plan; his satisfaction with our progress and achievements in economic reform; and his readiness to support Mubarak's plan, to be implemented in the next stage, continuing the reforms and removing the obstacles to investment.

Dr. 'Ubayd said the World Bank president stated that from the reports submitted to him about the Egyptian economy, he is satisfied with the role of the private sector; the flow of investments into Egypt; the willingness of Arab and international investors to take advantage of the investment environment in Egypt; and the World Bank's willingness to support Egyptian plans for human development—especially in the fields of education and health—and provide the necessary financing for environment protection projects.

Meets With Sidqi

NC2007180192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi met with this afternoon World Bank President Louis Preston and the accompanying delegation currently visiting Egypt. [passage omitted]

The talks dealt with the outcome of the Egyptian economic reform program and the World Bank's contribution to restructuring the Egyptian economy over the next three years.

Dr. Sidqi described the two-hour talks with the World Bank delegation as fruitful and constructive. He said that they dealt in detail with the issues raised in today's talks between President Husni Mubarak and the World Bank president. He noted that Preston expressed satisfaction with the economic, social, and administrative reforms made so far in Egypt, particularly Egypt's policy of encouraging the private sector and liberalizing the public sector from red tape and foreign trade.

He added that the talks also dealt with the steps taken so far toward the comprehensive economic, social, and administrative reforms and the Social Development Fund.

Concluding his statement, Dr. Sidqi said that the Egyptian economic reform program deals with Egypt's realities and social conditions and is a source of pride,

because it is one of the most successful economic reform programs in a number of Eastern and Western countries that have applied such programs. He added that the Egyptian economic reform program aims basically at achieving a realistic public benefit for all sectors of the people.

Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Libya Named in Arms Smuggling

NC1707155492 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 14 Jul 92 p 8

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During the National Democratic Party [NDP] conference in Asyut, Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, accused Iraq, Iran, Sudan, and Libya of smuggling weapons to extremist groups to destabilize Egypt, to undermine its security, and to create panic among its citizens. He said that foreign states are targeting Egypt.

He also noted that there is a group of gunrunners in Ethiopia—including 17 who are receiving aid from abroad—who are sending weapons to the extremist groups. [passage omitted]

Al-Baz—No Date for Hala'ib Committee Meeting

NC1907132592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1248 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 19 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, announced that no date was set yet for the next Egyptian-Sudanese meeting on the Hala'ib issue.

In a statement to MENA, Dr. al-Baz denied a report published by an Arab newspaper that this meeting, which was originally scheduled for next week, has been indefinitely postponed. Al-Baz said no meeting was scheduled in order to be postponed.

Al-Baz Cited on Libyan-Western 'Crisis,' Hala'ib

NC2107100592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, stressed the need to contain and prevent the escalation of any conflicts in the Middle East, particularly the Libyan-Western crisis. He explained that any tension in the region will affect Egypt and harm its interests.

He said he hopes the Libyan-Western crisis can be contained gradually before it is finally settled in coordination and cooperation with all the parties concerned. Al-Baz noted that, as things stand, we cannot say it has been settled; the various parties are responding in different ways.

In an address to the National Democratic Party's [NDP] 6th Congress tonight, al-Baz announced: We will not impose any particular options on Libya. It must make its final decision on every aspect of this crisis without Egyptian interference.

Dr. al-Baz denied that Libya has a policy of sending weapons to Egypt for use in infiltrating the border or undermining security and stability.

He said Egypt wishes to maintain close and "good" relations with Libya, noting that any obstacles between the two countries should be removed immediately to prevent their recurrence, especially if they concern excesses perpetrated by individuals or groups. He noted that Libyan officials take care to solve problems faced by Egyptian nationals in Libya. [passage omitted]

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 2225 GMT on 20 July adds the following: "Dr. al-Baz told the NDP's Arab and Foreign Relations Committee tonight that Egypt believes in a policy of nonintervention in the internal affairs of Sudan or any other Arab country and believes the people decide the system of government in their country because they are more qualified to do so than others."

[MENA adds: "Dr. al-Baz stressed the importance of not raising the issue of the conflict over the Hala'ib border area, because the border with Sudan is clearly defined by the 22d parallel north of the equator and this clear delineation prevents border disputes arising between the two countries. He added that the availability of facilities in the border area cannot wipe out the recognized border."]

Sudanese Liberation Movement Delegation Arrives

NC2007131592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1241 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—A delegation from the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] led by (Ding Alur), one of the movement's leaders, arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a several-days visit.

He stated on arrival that he will meet with some officials to explain what went on during the Abuja talks between the SPLM and the National Salvation government. He stressed the depth of ties that bind the two peoples of the Nile Valley, noting Egypt's effective role in supporting the southern Sudanese people and teaching the students there in various Egyptian universities and institutes and allowing them to study any course they want.

African Petroleum Producers Issue Communique

NC1907044492 Cairo MENA in English 1440 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—The tenth session of the ministerial council of the African Petroleum Producers Association (APPA) expected an increasing demand on oil and the stability of oil prices in the international market during the second half of the year.

The 10th session communique issued here today underscored the importance of encouraging the exchange of technical cooperation among APPA member countries.

The communique called upon the APPA member states to attend the international conference on oil prospection and development of oil output, set for November in Cairo.

Mohamed Sweidi from Algeria was appointed during the meetings executive secretary of the association for another three years term while Zairean Minister of Energy and Fuel Lukama Nkus was elected chairman of the APPA ministerial council

The coming APPA session will be held in Zaire on January 25, 1993.

APPA comprises Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria, and Zaire.

Talks Held With Zaire on Energy Cooperation

NC1907044692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1433 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Official talks about cooperation between Egypt and Zaire in the electricity and energy field began today. Egypt's team was led by Electricity and Energy Minister engineer Mahir Abazah and Zaire's by Energy and Fuel Minister Nkus Lukama who is currently visiting Egypt heading a technical delegation.

Following the session, engineer Abazah said that the prospects of boosting the two countries's cooperation in the electricity and nontraditional energy fields were discussed. He added that both sides reviewed the preliminary report about the study of the economic and technical feasibility of implementing the project to link the African Continent in one electric grid as part of the strategy to unite the African network. [passage omitted]

Reportage on National Democratic Party Congress

NDP Leader Wali Cited on Agenda

NC2007150092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister, minister of agriculture and land reclamation, and National Democratic Party [NDP] secretary general, affirmed that the NDP's sixth general congress is convening its current round amid very important economic changes and the implementation of economic reform and market policy.

In an interview with MENA, Wali said: If we review the draft laws the NDP's specialized committees and secretariats discussed, we find that economic issues occupy a prominent position. They include the laws on the business sector, the Central Bank, income tax, the money market, and the law governing relations between landlord and tenant of agricultural land, all of which, among others, were passed by the People's Assembly last year.

Wali said the recommendations and decisions the members of the congress will agree upon at the conclusion of their meetings will constitute the party's working schedule and policy of action during the coming stage. On the reconstruction and reformation of the political bureau or the reorganization of the secretariat, Wali clarified that it has been decided to finalize the NDP's various formations during its sixth congress, including the NDP's political bureau.

Wali clarified that the party will continue to heed the demands of the masses and express their hopes and aspirations. This will be a pillar of the NDP's action, which will acquire increasing importance during the coming stage.

Wali affirmed support for party relations with fraternal Arab countries, African countries, and Third World countries in general. He said there is an established axis for the NDP's foreign policy, which will acquire new importance in the coming stage—a stage that will witness changes regarding the new world order. This furnishes the NDP's foreign relations with a forward position on the map of party action at this stage.

Wali pointed out that the objective of this stage is to improve cooperation relations with African parties, especially with the nine Nile basin countries and the countries that are currently experiencing a multiparty system, such as Tunisia and Senegal, and some parties in Latin America and the Arab world.

Wali clarified that there is a protocol for cooperation with the Tunisian Democratic Constitution Assembly, and coordination is taking place with various representatives of all the international congresses of the Socialist International and Socialist Inter- African.

Mubarak Nominated for Third Term

NC2007151092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak opened the sixth congress of the National Democratic Party [NDP] at Cairo University this morning.

The session began with a Koranic recitation. NDP Secretary General Yusuf Wali then addressed the congress. He conveyed the nomination of the congress members and members of the governorates' congresses of President Mubarak for a third term in office as the leader of the national action process, in expression of the people's will and desire to maintain the achievements made, and in confirmation of Egypt's historic role in defending the Arab and Islamic nation's interests and in supporting victory based on justice. [passage omitted]

New Laws Said Directed at Subversive Groups

NC1907181592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1746 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi stated that the amendments to the penal and criminal procedures laws will not be used against freedom of the press, democracy, or the freedom enjoyed by the various media organs. In a statement at the People's Assembly at the conclusion of its parliamentary session today, he pointed out that these amendments are directed at those who uphold subversive ideas and who seek to harm Egypt, disrupt stability and security, and destroy national economy.

Sidqi said that the Egyptian people's future in political, economic, and social fields is bright and the government and the People's Assembly will work to ensure such a future, God willing. He praised the performance of all the members, majority, opposition, and independent, and their cooperation with the government to achieve the public interests.

Al-Jihad Suspect Interrogation Detailed

NC1907170092 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 17 Jul 92 p 9

[Report by 'Atif Faraj]

[Excerpt] The State Security Investigation Department's preliminary interrogation of defendant Jamal Haridi, accused of leading the Dayrut military wing of the al-Jihad organization, uncovered a wide-scale plot to assassinate officials as well as documents, maps, and names and addresses of people described as (infidels to be killed), written by the defendant himself. The interrogation also uncovered documents detailing a complete military training program to be conducted in camps in remote areas. The program involves three stages: Preparations for joining the camps; implementing the program inside the camps; and completing military training, evaluating the results, and specifying the tasks to be undertaken by the militant once his training is complete.

The organization's training program used a book, reportedly issued by the Defense Ministry, that includes a detailed explanation of the use of weapons, particularly medium-caliber machine guns. The organization's military training program favors these weapons. The book has already been seized.

The interrogation also led to the discovery of weapons; munitions, but no explosives; weapons used in hand-to-hand combat; and pamphlets urging hatred of the regime and others that said: The Islamists are coming. Also seized were documents listing the names of those that have left the organization and were to be killed, and 6,000 [Egyptian] pounds and checks worth another 2,000 pounds made out to the defendant by ordinary members. The interrogation also uncovered false documents attributed to unions, universities, and educational institutions.

AL-MUSAWWAR has learned that the maps and rough sketches made by the defendant will be sent to the Forgery and Counterfeiting Department for analysis and for a comparison of the handwriting. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Minister Reportedly Resigns 19 Jul

NC1907155392 Cairo MENA in English 1513 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Sudanese Labor Minister Kiniga George Balting [name and title as received] today sent his resignation to Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, head of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council.

Diplomatic sources said that Balting submitted his resignation to the Sudanese Embassy here to be sent to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir.

Balting, one of the three southern ministers in the Sudanese Government, arrived here last week on a private visit to Egypt. No reason has yet been given for his resignation.

Bahrain

Heir Apparent on Gulf Security, Qatari Dispute

JN1807115192 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Manama, 18 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Defense Force, has said that the Gulf Cooperation Council states are studying ways of improving their security. To save time and effort, he said, Bahrain believes that the right thing to do is to first develop existing capabilities before a more favorable alternative is found in the future.

His highness added: It would be wrong to give up what we enjoy only to adopt new things, because this would create a serious vacuum. Developing what exists, and thinking of an alternative, is the best and most desirable method.

Concerning a joint Gulf military force, His Highness Shaykh Hamad said in statements published today by the Kuwaiti newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT and the Emirian newspaper AL-KHALIJ that the idea is common. The purpose of the current Peninsula Shield force, he said, is to form an Arabian Gulf army in the future. All these things are now being discussed by specialized committees, and their recommendations will be forwarded to the next summit in Abu Dhabi, he added. [passage omitted]

Regarding Bahrain's border dispute with Qatar, His Highness Shaykh Hamad said Bahrain's recent initiative concerning "demarcation of the sea border and other regional issues between Bahrain and Qatar" invites fraternal Qatar to sign a joint agreement with Bahrain explaining all points of disagreement. The agreement would then be presented jointly to the International Court of Justice with a view toward reaching a comprehensive, radical, final, and binding solution.

His highness said that Qatar rejected the plan and said that "the case has already been brought before the court." But his highness stressed that the court is now only discussing whether or not it has jurisdiction to look into the unilateral Qatari request; it is not discussing the dispute itself. [passage omitted]

Asked about a consultative council in Bahrain, considering similar moves by other states in the region, His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah said that Bahrain has a precedent in this respect. Shura in Bahrain, he said, exists as a principle, and someday it will be institutionalized. [passage omitted]

Heir Apparent on Regional Issues

PM2007144992 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 15-21 Jul 92 p 31

[Interview with Bahraini Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid in Bahrain; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Rashid] Many people were surprised by the decision to refer the issue of demarcating the borders between your country and Qatar to the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. Do you believe that such a step will hasten a solution to the problem, or will it complicate it?

[Al Khalifah] We did not bring a case before the ICJ. It was the brothers in Qatar who did that. We have no objection to resolving that question before the ICJ if sister Qatar prefers that. But we are supposed to present the case together.

[Al-Rashid] But as we know, the court makes it conditional that dispute cases be presented jointly by the two sides. So how do you explain the Qatari side's decision to file the case on its own?

[Al Khalifah] That is what I said earlier. We are willing to present the case file, which includes all points of disagreement, so that we can leave these issues behind us.

[Al-Rashid] Can it be said that relations with Qatar are in their worst state?

[Al Khalifah] No, not at all. Border disputes exist between many states but do not affect overall relations. And we and Qatar have good relations. And we really hope that that obstacle will be surmounted as soon as possible. In our view, the dispute over border demarcation should not be exaggerated.

[Al-Rashid] You said that you are willing to present the case jointly. Is it possible to know what stage has been reached in the case?

[Al Khalifah] We are awaiting Qatar's approval to present the points of disagreement jointly.

[Al-Rashid] Will such a step cancel the present mediation?

[Al Khalifah] The mediation, with which we are satisfied, will continue even if we file the case, which could take years to examine before it is finally settled. And we appreciate Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz's positive and distinguished role in containing the matter from the beginning. Sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's mediation is the object of our appreciation and still stands.

[Al-Rashid] What is the story of the congratulations exchanged between you and the Iraqi Government?

[Al Khalifah] The Information Ministry's statement in that regard was clear and there is nothing to add.

[Al-Rashid] Are there contacts between you and the Iraqi Government at present?

[Al Khalifah] Nothing worth mentioning exists. This, because there are international resolutions and a world

commitment to it. We believe in the importance of adhering to international resolutions as the best formula to arrive at a lasting peace.

[Al-Rashid] How do you describe your relations with Iran, especially in view of the existence of rapprochement between it and Qatar?

[Al Khalifah] Our relations with Iran are developed, and there are many contacts between us. And there are joint activities between the Gulf side in general and the Iranian side. As for our disagreement with the brothers in Qatar, it is a disagreement within one family.

[Al-Rashid] What stage has been reached in the Damascus declaration among the Gulf states, Egypt, and Syria?

[Al Khalifah] Relations with Egypt and Syria are strong and proved their worth in the time of distress. The Egyptian and Syrian roles proved their worth and influence, and that they are not to be overlooked. Relations with these two fraternal states are special to us. In fact the activities and agreements concluded with them are bigger in size than what is contained in the declaration. So the relationship is more than just an agreement.

[Al-Rashid] What about the declaration itself?

[Al Khalifah] It still stands.

Kuwait

'Subversive Network' of Iraqi Agents Arrested

LD1907174592 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1512 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Jul (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry announced today that it has arrested members of a subversive network which had recently perpetrated a number of subversive crimes. Explosives and documents were found in their possession, and the documents prove that they were agents for the Iraqi regime.

The Interior Ministry statement sent to KUNA indicates that the subversive network included one nationalized Kuwaiti, two Iraqi women, one Iraqi man, and a fifth non-Kuwaiti defendant.

The statement says that the network planted explosives in the Al-Yarmuk area near the house of the dean of the faculty of medicine, Dr. Hilal al-Sayir, and that it damaged the al-Salimiyah arts center with incendiary rockets.

The statement stressed that the explosives and documents found in the possession of the accused prove that they were agents for the Iraqi regime, which recruited them to carry out terrorist acts in the state of Kuwait to destabilize security and stability and to terrify secure citizens.

According to the statement, the five defendants are:

First accused: Nabil, Y.A. Holder of Kuwaiti citizenship according to Article 7; born in 1966; employee at a government department; previously worked for a private company, not long ago.

Second accused: Majdi, 'A.M. Non-Kuwaiti, born in 1966, works for a private company.

Third accused: Sabah, M.Sh. Iraqi national, born in 1970; unemployed, half-brother of first accused.

Fourth accused: Rasmiyah, M.S. Iraqi national. Aunt of the first and third accused.

Fifth accused: Su'ad, M.Sh. Iraqi national born in 1942.

The Interior Ministry stated that its investigations indicated that the first accused spent all his education stages up to the secondary certificate level in Iraq; he was recruited by the people's army and trained in the use of arms and explosives; his mother is Iraqi.

The Interior Ministry added that following the instructions given to him by the Iraqi intelligence services, the first accused received 240 operational hand grenades and 120 detonators, which he managed to conceal with the collaboration of the second and third defendants.

The Interior Ministry stated that the accused admitted planting explosives near the residence of Dr. Hilal Al-Sayir, dean of the faculty of medicine, with the collaboration of others, resulting in the death of an Iranian gardener.

He also admitted launching, in collaboration with others, an "RPG" rocket against the arts center on Abd al-Karim Al-Khattabi Avenue in the Al-Salimiyah area to destabilize security and stability in the country and to exploit the situation to spread sedition among the sons of Kuwaiti society.

According to the statement, the second defendant said that he had helped the first accused hide bombs and detonators. The third accused admitted that he was recruited by the Iraqi intelligence services. He also claimed that he was imprisoned by forces of the Iraqi regime; it transpired that he had traveled to Iraq out of his own free will. He contributed, along with the first and second defendants, to concealing explosives.

As for the fourth accused female, the investigations proved that she was working for the Iraqi intelligence services; she traveled to Iraq, where she was given a medal and a message of thanks in recognition of her services and role in serving the Iraqi intelligence services.

Regarding the fifth accused female, the statement indicates that she was an Iraqi citizen married to a Kuwaiti national; she has a residence permit; and she enjoys relations with the Iraqi intelligence services. She was also

given a medal and a message of thanks for her distinguished role in serving the Iraqi intelligence services.

In its statement, the Interior Ministry indicated that all the accused have been referred to the Public Prosecution. [passage omitted]

Al-Ya'qub Greets Lebanese Minister Samahah

NC1807150092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Statement by Information Minister Badr al-Jasim al-Ya'qub followed by answers to questions by unidentified correspondents in Kuwait Airport's VIP lounge after Lebanese Information Minister Michel Samahah's arrival in Kuwait on 18 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Ya'qub] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I am happy to receive the dear brother Lebanese Information Minister Michel Samahah. When we welcome him here, we really welcome all Lebanon. Everyone knows how dear Lebanon is to us and how strong and historic the relations are between the Lebanese and Kuwaiti people and the Lebanese and Kuwaiti leaders. This visit undoubtedly represents continuing information cooperation between the two countries. Lebanon held a pioneering, strong, and supportive position on Kuwait's liberation. It is enough to note that the first voice to condemn the Iraqi aggression emanated from Lebanon. This visit will resume the correct, sound course and we hope these relations will grow stronger. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Minister, you spoke about Lebanon's role in supporting the liberation of Kuwait. What role can Kuwait play to help Lebanon to implement the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 425?

[Al-Ya'qub] Kuwait has always placed all its political, media, and economic resources at the disposal of Lebanon and the Lebanese cause. I assure you that Kuwait will spare no effort, political or media, to support Lebanon and the Lebanese cause.

[Correspondent] What about the Arab resolutions regarding support for Lebanon?

[Al-Ya'qub] I think these resolutions must be activated. Hard work needs to be carried out collectively to activate these resolutions to let Lebanon return to normal and the Lebanese economy grow, because Lebanon's good health reflects on that of the Arab nation. All the Arab states should cooperate to support Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Kuwait has moved to assist Lebanon economically. Will it do the same in the media field?

[Al-Ya'qub] We will not hesitate to support Lebanon in every field. This is a basic creed of the Kuwaiti conscience. We hope, God willing, that these talks will produce whatever it takes to achieve all this.

Samahah on Relations, Israeli Election

NC1807153392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Interview with Lebanese Information Minister Michel Samahah by unidentified correspondents at Kuwait Airport's VIP lounge after Samahah's arrival in Kuwait on 18 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. Samahah, this visit to Kuwait, the first by Your Excellency, characterizes the distinctive nature of relations between Kuwait and Lebanon. What is the purpose of this visit and what are the most important topics you will discuss here?

[Samahah] [passage omitted] I came to Kuwait to complete what we started with Dr. Badr in Beirut on cooperation and drawing up the executive framework for Lebanese-Kuwait cooperation on information, in manpower, technical, program, and production fields between our radios, televisions, and our ministries' departments. This is possible and will be achieved under the patronage of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and His Highness Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and His Highness Kuwaiti Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd, who is dear to everyone's hearts.

The coordination and cooperation between Kuwait and Lebanon during this visit will reestablish the old basis that governed relations between Kuwait and Lebanon and their peoples. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] What is the Lebanese media doing to speed up the release of Kuwaiti prisoners?

[Samahah] The Lebanese media role runs parallel to that of the Kuwaiti media, constantly exerting pressure and spreading awareness about this problem on the Arab and international levels so that all international and humanitarian agreements will be implemented and the prisoners will return immediately to their families and country.

[Correspondent] Following the success of the Israeli Labor Party led by Yitzhaq Rabin in the recent election, do you expect an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon?

[Samahah] The election in Israel has not changed the basic facts about the invasion of Lebanon, the occupation of its territory, and the crisis in its south. Israel remains the same, its expansionist intentions remain the same, and its big ambitions in Lebanon and the Arab territory remain the same. We have sensed no change. We do not want to believe in mirages. We prefer to remain realistic, considering Israel's nature. We also consider the fact that there are negotiations. We must ensure the success of the peace process in the hope that this way we can liberate the Arab land and will. [passage omitted]

Information Minister on Cooperation

NC1907203492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jul 92

[NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY dispatch from Kuwait]

[Excerpts] Information Minister Michel Samahah has asserted that the purpose of his visit to Kuwait is to strengthen media cooperation between Lebanon and Kuwait as well as cooperation in other spheres. He announced that freedom must be used responsibly in order to preserve it, pointing out that freedom does not mean conspiring against the homeland's security. [passage omitted]

Minister Samahah made these remarks during a visit to the reequipped KUNA offices with Rafiq Shalalah, director of the Lebanese NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY. [passage omitted]

Minister Samahah met with KUNA employees and conducted a dialogue with them about the current Lebanese and Arab situation and international developments. Asked about Lebanon's objection to holding a meeting between the foreign minister and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker outside Lebanon, he said that Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz' objection is connected, in form and substance, with Lebanon's stance but not with the substance of Baker's mission and the regional peace process. He announced that in the course of the Lebanese contacts with the United States and other Western countries, agreement was reached to restore normal relations between Lebanon and these countries after the hostage issue was resolved. He noted, however, that what occurred during the attempt to reach agreement about Baker's visit contravened this agreement and this is why Lebanon raised the objection to the meeting. Minister Michel Samahah expressed hope that agreement will still be reached about a venue for a meeting between Baker and Buwayz on Lebanese territory. He noted in this connection Lebanon's wish to ensure the success of the regional peace initiative. [passage omitted]

About the elections in Lebanon, Minister Samahah told the KUNA employees that the Lebanese Government will meet this week to adopt executive decisions and call on the electorate to vote prior to 15 October 1992. He noted that the elections might take place in late August or early September.

In answer to a question, Minister Samahah said it is inappropriate to link the elections and the redeployment of the Syrian forces in Lebanon because the al-Ta'if Agreement has no provision linking the two issues. [passage omitted]

Information Exchange Program Signed

LD2007160892 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1417 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 20 Jul (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub and Lebanese Information Minister Michel Samahah today signed a program for cooperation in the sphere of information between the two countries.

The program discusses the development of information links in the sphere of radio, TV, and news agencies; the exchange of expertise; and the production of radio and TV programs.

The program also deals with benefiting from the technical potentials of both sides, and coordinating in the sphere of contacting foreign media for the purpose of explaining joint crucial matters.

A joint committee has also been formed that meets periodically to follow up on the implementation of the program, the time limit of which is three years and which is automatically renewable.

Minister Samahah and Yusuf al-Samit, chairman of the board and director general of KUNA, signed an agreement for cooperation and the exchange of news and information among the Lebanese national information agency, the Information Ministry, and KUNA. [passage omitted]

For his part, Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub praised the courageous stance of the Lebanese Government and people, which is represented by the condemnation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on the first day. He emphasized that Lebanon has been, and will always be, a voice that objectively expresses its views, and that exposed Iraqi greed and the disintegration of the Arab and Islamic nations as a result of the invasion. [passage omitted including indistinct passage]

Amir Receives Pakistani Minister of State

LD2007091692 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in English 1830 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] His highness the amir received in audience at 11 o'clock today the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of his visit to the country.

The audience was attended by the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, the Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, Director of His Highness's Office, Muhammad al-Shatti, and Pakistan's Ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

ANC's Mandela Arrives for Talks in Jeddah

MB2007155192 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1500 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The president of the ANC [African National Congress], Mr. Nelson Mandela, has arrived in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia to seek the support of the Saudi Arabian

leadership and of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for the rights of blacks in South Africa.

Mr. Mandela has held talks with the secretary general of the organization, Mr. Hamid al-Ghabid. Officials said Mr. Mandela briefed Mr. al-Ghabid on the latest developments in South Africa, and on the result of the UN Security Council debate on this country.

Officials said Mr. al-Ghabid had assured Mr. Mandela of the firm support of the Islamic nation. Diplomats in the city said that he would also meet Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud, and have an audience with King Fahd.

King Fahd Receives Mandela

LD2007222192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2132 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 20 Jul (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al- Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today at his office in Salam Palace received Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

Mandela Leaves Jeddah 20 Jul

LD2107003392 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2340 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Jeddah, 20 July—African National Congress President Nelson Mandela left Jeddah this evening. He was seen off at Jeddah's King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, a representative of royal protocol, and some officials.

Paper Says Rabin Government Marks 'New Era'

LD2007072492 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0320 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Addressing the Middle East situation following the change of the Israeli government, UKAZ stated that these days there is a new era in the Middle East subsequent to Yitzhaq Rabin assuming the Israeli leadership. The newspaper said this change, however much some people might disagree with it, represents a vision which differs reasonably from the premises previously presented by the consecutive Israeli governments since the establishment of the Israeli state.

The newspaper said that it was quite clear that good exploitation of the flexibility shown by the new Israeli government would lead that government, even if reluctantly, towards the just peace because it understands that if, at the end of the day, it stood alone in the camp of the iron fist then this would cost her a high and exorbitant price which it would not be able to pay however powerful it was.

The newspaper noted that the new era of the Middle East conflicts has found a reasonable detente among all sides in the conflict. It said that the price of the disappearance of the peace hopes or the diminishing of expectations for peace would not be paid by one side alone but by all of sides. At the same time all the people in the region are hoping to live in peace and stability and to banish completely from their minds all the bloody wars which have shed larger rivers of blood than the rivers of water.

The newspaper emphasized that there is now a golden opportunity for peace and stability, and that what is now required is for all the sides to be convinced of their feasibility so the roar of guns and noise of aircraft would quiet down and for the whispers of the grain stalks to be the loudest sound in the region.

Yemen

Al-Dali Leaves for Geneva Talks With Saudis

JN1907133992 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has left for Geneva at the head of our country's delegation to the executive Yemeni-Saudi talks on border issues between the two neighboring countries.

In a statement to SABA', the minister of state for foreign affairs said that the meeting is aimed at exchanging views on future arrangements to begin negotiations between the two fraternal countries on disputed issues in hopes of bolstering brotherly and neighborly relations, foremost being the Yemeni-Saudi border issue. He said: We hope we will succeed in achieving the interests of both concerned parties.

Geneva Talks Termed 'Positive' Step

JN2007094192 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 GMT 92

[Press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH editorializes on the Yemeni-Saudi talks due to begin in Geneva today to discuss border issues between the two (?brotherly) countries. AL-THAWRAH says: The Yemeni-Saudi border talks, which will begin in Geneva today between the two countries' delegations, are a positive and practical step toward ending the Yemeni-Saudi border dispute.

AL-THAWRAH says: The border problem between the two countries has remained a thorn in bilateral relations. The Geneva talks are a qualitative stride in the course of Yemeni-Saudi relations, which have been marred by stalemate and tension during the past few years. The Geneva talks are also an important step toward reiterating the two neighborly countries' serious need for a suitable solution that (?guarantees) each country's rights.

Sitting at the negotiating table in Geneva is a preparatory step by the two countries to move the genuine talks to the capitals of the two sisterly countries. The ties of neighborliness and kinship as well as the factors of religion, language, and geography impose this on the two countries.

The paper adds: Hence, we believe that the talks being held in Geneva between Yemen and Saudi Arabia are the starting point to find the right path to solve the border problem peacefully. The talks are also (?a sign) of the two neighborly countries' conviction in, and their estimation of, peaceful dialogue to reach a comprehensive and just solution to end the problem in a way that guarantees the rights of both parties on a clear basis and common and [word indistinct] ground that does not encroach on either side's rights. This was reiterated by the firm and principled stand of the Republic of Yemen vis-a-vis resolving the border dispute. It has been trying to achieve this since the declaration of unity and the establishment of the Republic of Yemen on 22 May 1990 when it announced [words indistinct] Yemen's full readiness to resolve the border problem with its neighbors through dialogue and negotiations.

The paper says: We, in the Republic of Yemen, view these preliminary talks, which begin in Geneva today, with great confidence and hope. We expect them to succeed and come out with positive results to push the historical relations and the existing ties and mutual interests between Yemen and Saudi Arabia toward new horizons, particularly in the wake of the tension that prevailed in these relations because of the Gulf crisis that produced a breakdown in relations and painful events. Such a breakdown not only affected Yemeni-Saudi relations, but also severely weakened Arab ties and partly destroyed resources and morale. However, we are very confident that the Geneva talks will provide a glimmer of hope and the beginning of goodness on the path of finding an appropriate (?framework) to restore inter-Arab relations on new bases; namely, mutual respect, noninterference in other countries' affairs, and on not resorting to force in solving (?bilateral) problems.

The paper says: It has become clear that solving the border problems and disputes which take place among Arab countries, can only be achieved through peaceful dialogue. Dialogue is the best option [words indistinct]. This is Yemen's option. Yemen has always reiterated this option which it always follows and adheres to in solving its problems with its Arab brothers and neighbors as well as with all world countries.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: Yemen's view [words indistinct] and new model of Arab policies vis-a-vis the situation in the world and to work toward entrenching a new model of relations that is based on respect, mutual interests, and recognizing each country's right to independence and national sovereignty.

'Cordial' Discussions Held

JN2007175692 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] At 1400 today, Sanaa time, a preparatory Yemeni-Saudi meeting was held in Geneva. Following cordial discussions, the two sides agreed to hold another meeting, the date of which will be fixed later, to set up a committee of experts to lay down the appropriate framework and measures to begin negotiations on the issue of Yemeni-Saudi borders. The Yemeni side was headed by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs. The Saudi side was headed by Education Minister brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir.

The meeting was attended on the Yemeni side by brothers Ahmad Dayfallah, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry for political affairs; Ambassador Yahya Jaghlan, our permanent representative to the UN European headquarters in Geneva; and 'Umar Ibrahim, director of the Legal Department at the Foreign Ministry. The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by brother 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mansuri, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and brother Fahd 'Abdallah al-'Azzam of the Saudi Royal Court.

Paper Comments on Saudi Border Talks

JN2107090092 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH editorially comments today on our country's talks with Saudi Arabia in Geneva to resolve the border issue, saying: The Geneva talks for resolving the Yemeni-Saudi border issue confirm the sincerity of the Republic of Yemen's peaceful course vis-a-vis ties with neighboring Arabian Gulf states. Furthermore, these talks confirm that the Republic of Yemen is sincere in its efforts to lay down the groundwork for a future, new, and progressive policy nurturing security and stability for the countries and peoples of the region on the basis of economic and political integration, and also on the basis of respecting the peculiarities of each party concerning the management of its own domestic affairs. This policy provides for the engagement of all parties in peaceful negotiations to resolve problems and disputes within a framework that recognizes the right of parties with dissenting views to express themselves and to defend their own positions, citing the arguments they deem reasonable and fit. Thus, it may be possible to lay the groundwork for a new different life in the region, in which politics, instead of fueling enmities, would serve to entrench the ties of fraternity and cooperation, and in which each country's capabilities would be devoted to promoting the objectives of peoples and progress of the region. Politics and countries would then promote the peoples' causes and bring about the integration of the community to help

effect a balanced development and use the region's resources to build its future and safeguard its common destiny.

The paper adds: This perspective is what prompted Yemen to attend the border talks in Geneva with fraternal Saudi Arabia, which responded favorably to the calls we made for finding a peaceful solution to the problem. If the negotiating process demonstrates a reasonable level of responsiveness and if the two sides reach satisfactory results, the Republic of Yemen and the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will lay the groundwork for future inter- Arab ties and establish a civilized tradition for handling disputes to obliterate the prevalent negative conceptions others have about the Arabs being enemies of themselves as a nation and of themselves as countries.

The paper affirms that one of the most urgent prerequisites for proper beginnings and ends in these border negotiations is for the two sides to sit at the negotiating table in good faith with the aim of reaching a final and comprehensive solution. With this, we mean a solution that is acceptable to all, one that would not leave a single loophole through which differences and enmities endangering future ties would infiltrate, the paper notes. This means that the negotiators should shun the attempts at bargaining and political extortion. Besides, the negative repercussions created by political circumstances and positions, especially those surfacing in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis, must not be allowed to negatively influence the negotiations, the paper says.

In its editorial, AL-THAWRAH notes that a comprehensive solution requires that the problem be viewed as one that is linked to the peoples' national conscience, which has been strongly moved. Furthermore, the dispute is linked to political factors and practices which attempt to undermine this conscience's sense of dignity. Hence, the problem starts with territory and ends with the individual. It is expanded to include other political domains outside the framework of territory. Therefore, the current border negotiations provide a unique historic opportunity for producing a solution that goes beyond the issue of territory to open the horizons of the future for new ties, in which countries do not forge ties at the expense of peoples, but rather appreciate peoples and view their interests as a foundation for political or official ties.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: A solution to the border issue and laying, through this, the groundwork for a new political life based on integration, cooperation, and a drive to promote the interests of peoples requires the negotiators to look into all possible solutions and to display a political willingness for commitment. By this, we mean that the factors conducive to agreement must be bolstered. And here, we particularly refer to the positive aspects of the fraternal peaceful solution to the border dispute between the Republic of Yemen and Oman, which are well-known to all.

Further Reportage on UN Inspection of Ministry

'Principled,' 'Irrevocable' Stand Lauded

JN2007161292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Jul 92

["Editorial" from "The Radio Newspaper" program; written by Hisham 'Awdah and read by Rawhi Ahmad]

[Text] Gentlemen: The zealous sons of our people continue to express their anger and denunciation of the conduct of the scoundrel inspection team members, who are still besieging the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry. The streets near the ministry have been the scenes of angry demonstrations, sit-ins, and other forms of protests to express popular rejection of these aggressive practices targeted at Iraq's sovereignty and freedom.

While the people continue to express their anger and rejection, the Iraqi Government also continues to stress its refusal to allow the inspection team into the ministry. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has emphasized that the ministry building is a symbol of national sovereignty, and the inspection request is a provocative act meant to humiliate Iraq. He said some inspection teams may use this precedent in the future to encroach upon Iraq's sovereignty. This is the conspiratorial policy pursued by the United States against Iraq, he explained.

The position of the people and Government of Iraq is a principled and irrevocable one as it defends the nation's sovereignty and dignity. This is especially true because the Security Council resolutions, which Iraq accepted with clear reservations, are not concerned with the inspection of official buildings, of which the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry is one.

Protest Held Against UN Team, U.S.

JN2007155092

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 1437 GMT on 20 July carries within its "The Radio Newspaper" program a seven-minute report on popular protests against UN inspectors situated outside the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Baghdad.

The report includes recording of parts of demonstrations and interviews with several figures. The announcer introduces the report as follows: "The sons of our people and their mass organizations continue to express their anger and protest against the conduct of the international inspection team besieging the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry. Following is a voice recording of part of the protest demonstrations."

A voice in a crowd is then heard chanting "Down, Down, CIA" and "Down, Down, Bush" in English. Following that, "Yes, Yes, to Leader Saddam Husayn" in Arabic is heard being repeated for approximately one minute. The report proceeds with an interview conducted at the site of the demonstration with Fadil Mahmud Gharib, president of the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions; the interview is conducted by correspondent Ja'far Hashim. Gharib says: "All Iraqi workers took to the streets today to express their anger and denunciation of these crimes, of these spies who want to sow corruption in the land of Iraq." He adds: "The people of Iraq reject these spies and will take revenge against them if they continue with this conduct." Gharib further explains: "Here are tens of thousands of Iraqi workers; they came from factories throughout the country to announce their rallying around leader President Saddam Husayn."

Correspondent Ja'far Hashim then interviews Haydar Ibrahim, secretary general of the General Federation of Palestinian Workers. He says the inspection teams' practices constitute provocation not only against Iraq, but against the entire Arab nation.

In a third interview, the National Assembly's deputy speaker notes that the Assembly sent a memorandum to the United Nations and the Security Council protesting "the flagrant aggression of the inspection teams."

The chants of the crowd can be heard in the background during the interviews.

'Angry Masses' Burn Bush in Effigy

JN2007200892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1942 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—The masses of al-Karradah, al-Amin, Zayyunah, and al-Fudayliyah [in Baghdad] have denounced the provocative practices of the scoundrel members of the inspection team besieging the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry.

In a march in front of the ministry this evening, the masses condemned the conspiratorial positions of the U.S. Administration, and its fabrication of this act—which runs contrary to the principles of sovereignty—to serve as a pretext to continue the unjust blockade against Iraq.

Participants in the protest march asked members of the inspection team to leave the area immediately so that the ministry can carry on with its business of serving farmers and peasants.

Angry masses burned the U.S. flag and an effigy of criminal Bush to protest U.S. Administration practices and its instructions to the scoundrels to besiege the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry.

Inspectors Demand Their 'Withdrawal'

JN2107082892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] New York, 21 Jul (INA)—Diplomatic sources at the United Nations affirmed today that some members of the inspection teams affiliated with the special commission headed by Rolf Ekeus currently in Iraq have expressed disgust with the missions assigned to them by

the commission and have sent reports to their governments demanding their withdrawal, because the missions assigned to them are similar to the actions of gangsters and thieves and are inappropriate to their positions as specialists and scientists.

The diplomatic sources in New York added that Ekeus is coming under pressure from the inspectors to withdraw. On the other hand, he is facing pressure from the U.S. Government to continue these tasks, the sources noted.

Reports sent by some of these inspectors, particularly non-U.S. military inspectors, indicated that the tasks assigned to them neither suit them as officers nor honor their sense of soldiership. The U.S. Administration, they added, is using them as tools to serve Bush's policy of hurting Iraq.

IAEA Team Reports 'Excellent' Cooperation

JN2107072292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—The head of the 13th nuclear inspection team from the IAEA, who is currently in Baghdad, has affirmed that Iraq's cooperation with his team has been excellent, and that his team has not run into any obstacle.

In a statement published in today's edition of the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, Richard Hooper said that his team has accomplished the tasks assigned to it by the UN Commission in a normal way and that it did not run into any obstacles. He added that the two sites of [words indistinct] are incapable of any renewed nuclear activity. We have accomplished the task we came to Iraq to accomplish, he noted.

The team leader pointed out that his team visited five sites in Iraq to ensure that they are devoid of nuclear activities, adding that his team has not found any traces of plutonium or other elements.

Hooper went on to say that all nuclear inspection teams which visited Iraq found positive cooperation from the Iraqi competent authorities and full cooperation from Iraqi technicians.

The team leader noted that the nuclear inspection teams have accomplished most of the tasks assigned to them, and that some minor tasks remain to be accomplished.

Attempted Assassination of King Fahd Alleged

JN2107162892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1609 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Amman, 21 Jul (INA)—Diplomatic sources in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, have said that King Fahd was the target of an assassination attempt today by his guards.

These sources stressed that the Saudi authorities are trying to conceal this report, which created clear confusion among the political circles in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states.

The sources said that this attempt, the details of which are not known yet, was not the first of its kind, but was preceded by several attempts that took place from within the family itself.

Cuban Official Hails Relations, Denounces U.S.

JN1807200692 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Jul 92 pp 1, 5

[Text] Dr. Alvarez Cambras, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, has lauded militant relations between the Iraqi and the Cuban peoples, as well as both countries' confrontation of the U.S. imperialist hegemony, which is aimed at enslaving nations under the umbrella of the new world order.

In an open dialogue with media correspondents in Iraq, organized by the Iraqi Journalists Association and attended by Sa'd al-Bazzaz, first deputy of the doyen of the Iraqi journalists; the members of the council of the association; and a crowd of journalist and media men; Dr. Cambras said that during his meeting with leader President Saddam Husayn, he conveyed greetings to his excellency from the Cuban people and leadership, as well as Cuban President Fidel Castro's greetings and his admiration for Iraq's courage in the face of U.S. imperialism.

He also said that in his capacity as chairman of the Arab-Cuban Friendship Society and the Iraqi-Cuban Friendship Society, he has been eager to bolster friendship between the Iraqi and Cuban peoples. He added: We also studied with leader President Saddam Husayn the new changes in the world and U.S. control of the world after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, as well as U.S. attempts to impose a new world order on Third World countries. Cuba, as well as Iraq, rejects this unjust order and proposes the policy of mutual respect, respect for sovereignty, and respect for nations' right to self-determination and to choose the system of government they want. He added: Cuba also rejects interference in domestic affairs and any attempt to control its national policy, and it will remain loyal to that principle, which it has drawn up for 30 years. Iraq, which confronted the 30-state aggression, will remain loyal to its principles.

Responding to journalists' questions, Cambras reviewed Cuba's experience in confronting the U.S. blockade, and said: The Cuban leadershsip took preemptive measures to confront that severe blockade, which is being imposed by the United States and which became more severe after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Cuba used to secure 13 million tonnes of foodstuffs from the Soviet Union at encouraging prices in return for exporting sugar at encouraging prices. After the new changes, Cuba managed to obtain only 5 million tonnes of foodstuffs.

The Cuban people have supported their leadership by abandoning a good many nonessentials, and they used as means of transport 2 million bicycles, thus doing away with the need for 60 percent of public transport. This

also led to cutting working hours in certain departments and suspending industries that use up precious fuel. The Cuban leadership has also given a boost to the tourist industry and pharmaceutical industries which constitute a significant source of income and an alternative to economic ties with the collapsed socialist camp. Eighty percent of our trade was with that camp.

Dr. Cambras emphasized that Cuba will never deviate from the socialist path based on Marxism-Leninism which Cuba espoused 30 years ago. He pointed out that the first article of the Cuban Constitution which came out on 10 July stated that Cuba is a nation with a socialist ideology based on the principles of Marx and Lenin.

The Constitution also emphasized that what happened in the Socialist camp will not change the course of the Cuban revolution, which has taken many steps to cope with the changes that accompanied perestroika and moved the Cuban economy to a more balanced and more stable state despite the many sacrifices that the people have willingly made in the cause of their principles and revolution.

AL-THAWRAH asked why, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the balance between East and West, the United States has not invaded Cuba. Dr. Cambras said: If U.S. imperialism should be foolhardy enough to undertake such a thing, it will find itself pitted against 30 million armed men who make up the Cuban people. There are weapons in each house, in the fields, in the factories, in the schools, and everywhere. The people will fight from house to house and street to street. The Cuban people will withdraw to the mountains to fight U.S. imperialism. U.S. imperialism can hardly afford from a material and moral perspective to commit such a folly. And the Cuban people are willing to make the sacrifices for the sake of their revolution and sovereignty. The people will expose the U.S. miscalculations. The Americans will not fare any better than they did 30 years ago in the Bay of the Pigs episode.

Dr. Cambras expressed his deep appreciation and that of the Cuban people for the steadfastness and capability of Iraq to defeat the U.S. blockade and abort it. He lauded the Iraqi reconstruction effort in the aftermath of aggression. He noted that the reconstruction is proceeding in full gear, thus undermining the embargo.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Plan for Gulf Alliance

JN1807102492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said that America wants to tighten its grip on Gulf oil and impose its complete hegemony over global oil policies. In an article published today, AL-THAWRAH says that the plan recently proposed by U.S. Admiral Renwart Taylor, commander of U.S. naval forces [name and title as heard], shows that the U.S. Administration is not satisfied with the protection treaties signed with several regimes or with its military presence in the region. Rather, it seeks to establish a military alliance to maintain its occupation of the oil sources.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The new American plan aims at ensuring an American naval presence in the Gulf for many years to come. Through this presence, the U.S. Administration can link oil-producing countries in the Gulf with imperialist countries and its military allies, particularly its NATO allies.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the alliance, which the U.S. admiral advocates, already exists. This alliance, however, is divided by the bilateral protection treaties signed by the U.S. Administration and certain Gulf states. Therefore, the only thing remaining is to unite and merge these treaties into one treaty that would become the basis for the proposed alliance.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The real danger threatening regional and pan-Arab security is the danger posed by American imperialism, its allies, and its cunning colonialist plans.

Kurdish Party Hails Saddam, Denounces U.S.

JN1807130092 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, July 18, INA—The Kurdistan Revolutionary Party hailed President Saddam Husayn and the great achievements accomplished by the 17-30 July revolution.

In a statement issued by AL-'IRAQ newspaper on the 24th anniversary of the revolution, the party condemned the crimes committed against Kurds in the autonomy region.

The statement said the law of autonomy rule as well as the other great achievement accomplished for the Kurdish people irritated the traitorous elements in the region.

It stressed that agents of the U.S. imperialism and Zionism, protected by U.S. sought to distort the Kurdish image and transform the Kurdish question into a cheap blackmail issue to achieve personal ends at the expense of the people.

The party stressed its solidarity with President Saddam Husayn and pledged to continue its struggle to build greater Iraq.

Reportage on Opposition; Rebel Radio Reports

Factional Disagreements Noted

NC1807111692 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Jul 92 p 5

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] The Iraqi opposition in Cairo has urged all opposition forces to consolidate their efforts and devise a working plan to topple the current Iraqi regime.

The group has issued a statement, attacking the resolutions of last month's opposition conference in Vienna and saying they contradict the Iraqi people's interests and territorial integrity.

The statement added that all influential opposition forces, parties, and leadership boycotted the conference.

The group denounced the Vienna conference's demand for Kurdish self-determination after toppling Saddam's regime and urged the opposition not to recognize the resolution because it does not represent the Iraqi people's will.

Battalion Commander Reportedly Killed

NC1907140992 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] In response to the terrorist acts against our patient people by the regime of ostracized Saddam and to punish the humiliated members of his criminal gang and mercenaries for their sinful acts against the innocent people of proud Iraq, the heroes of the blessed popular uprising carried out a daring operation on 15 July against criminal Captain Qays, handing down God's sentence on him. The deceased captain was commander of the 'Aflaqite Artillery Battalion 216 and carried out cowardly Saddam's orders to shell the inhabitants from the areas of (Umm al-Hush), (al-Muzar), al- Hajjiyah, and the other areas that run parallel to the marshes of al-'Amarah.

'Savage Attack' Launched in Marshlands

NC2007170792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Forces of the outcast tyrant regime have launched a savage attack against the al-'Amarah marshlands, in the south, using fighter aircraft, helicopters, tanks, and heavy artillery. Opposition sources said that the popular forces shot down a helicopter that participated in the attack on 16 July. The helicopter was seen falling down in flames. The sources said that the tyrant regime used three brigades of the Republican Guard forces, supported by MiG-23 aircraft, whose use is prohibited according to the UN resolutions. The sources also noted that the tyrant forces suffered scores of wounded, including a number of officers.

The outcast tyrant regime prepared for its savage attack with heavy artillery shelling against populated villages and centers in the (Umm al-Kush) and (al-Hajjir) in the al-'Amarah marshlands, killing five people and wounding scores of women and children.

Radio Reports Explosion of UN Car

NC2007190392 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] A UN car exploded this morning, 20 July, as it was parked outside the UN police headquarters in Shorash neighborhood in al-Sulaymaniyah. The car had just returned from patrol duty when it exploded, slightly wounding two UN policemen with flying glass. The explosion also caused damage to the UN building and neighboring buildings.

Writer Urges 'Revision' of Ministries

JN1807125092 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 11 Jul 92 p 3

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif, head of the Green Party: "Toward Two Ministries of Culture and Information"]

[Excerpts] The time has come—although this has been a long-standing demand—to have a ministry of information and a another ministry of culture and arts.

Although such a separation between culture and information took place in previous years, rejoining culture and information within one ministry does not mean that this merging is the ideal situation under all circumstances.

I am not against a particular minister of culture and information, but neither can I personally, or others of various cultural levels, be convinced of the need for the merger of information and culture.

With such a merger, we have carried out an arbitrary action against the concept, meaning, and bases of information and against culture and its concept.

Actually, experience has shown how culture and arts have been subjugated to information and how information confiscated the rights of culture and arts. We have also seen how differences between information and culture have been ignored. Thus, information has lost its tasks and duties, as well as its required role in the homeland's public life and on the foreign level. Culture has lost its independent identity and restriction has become a shared element between the two domains.

The principle of placing the right person in the right place has been ignored in many areas, including the areas of culture and information. The chronic officials in the Ministry of Culture and Information and the exchanging of posts among themselves have become a source of surprise and fun-making in cultural and social quarters. The persistent question is: Is this or that information official the only unchangeable competent and a Ba'thist? [as published]

Within this framework as well, it has become an ordinary thing that a person assumes tasks related to both information and culture as an officer, and not as specialist in information or culture and arts.

That a minister—any minister—or an official should be Ba'thist has remained the prevailing condition since the revolution. Although some non-Ba'thists were appointed ministers during the seventies, this condition must be terminated after the referendum on the constitution, which provides for the direct election of the president of the Republic.

The selection of Ba'thist officials has not always been accurate. For example, nominations for official tasks based on personal acquaintances have led to the appointment of Ba'thist officials who are no better qualified than others, whether inside the party organization or in the department or office in question. Some of those who have been punished for party and job-related reasons have been assigned to higher posts in other places for the same reason I mentioned earlier. Is this acceptable?

The Arab Socialist Ba'th party is the party that carried out the revolution and led, and is leading, the forces of change in our country. The state is the same state. However, what has happened in some institutions and ministries runs counter to these facts.

We must admit that our country's domestic and foreign media have been solely created by leader Saddam Husayn's statements and speeches. However, turning these statements and speeches into guidelines of action have led to substantial misinterpretations on various occasions by this or that information official.

If we believe—if only temporarily—that officials should be appointed on the basis of their Ba'th affiliation, we cannot believe in the absence of specialization upon appointment to an important post. This is because this represents a loss for the people and the state together.

Such appointments—which can be seen in many offices—may lead to the creation of people who hate the state as a whole because of the mismanagement of an official who covers his job incompetence with bureaucracy and a general disregard for people. [passage omitted]

This is just a proposal to make the information minister responsible for information departments and organizations such as radio and television, the press, internal and external media, and the beamed radios, and make the Ministry of Culture and Arts responsible for all the establishments, organizations, and departments that are concerned with culture and arts.

The two ministries should be staffed with experts and specialists in literature, culture, arts, and the media from the ranks of the Ba'thists, if this is the condition these days, now that the constitution has not been approved yet and before we have party multiplicity, whose law leader Saddam Husayn approved several months ago. A brief glance at the names of the information and culture ministers in other countries is enough to confirm the importance of putting the right man the right place in all the state ministries, departments, and establishments, including the present Culture and Information Ministry and the future ministries of information and culture and arts.

Technology has become the law of life in the world. It is no longer sufficient for a man to be kindhearted, upstanding, and a committed party member in order to understand science which is now governing economy, politics, information, culture, and the press. The conditions of integrity and national honor are definitely required but they cannot be our only path to keep pace with the progressive movement of the world.

Patriotism and public morals could also be available to those who have mastered science and technology. This is what is really required. However, this does not mean excluding those who have no such qualifications. These people can be given other tasks that are commensurate with their abilities in other fields. [passage omitted]

In addition to my proposal of separating information from culture and arts, I also propose creating a ministry of tourism and a ministry of environment. I also call for a comprehensive revision of all the state ministries and institutions. Some establishments may merge, some could be canceled because their tasks duplicates those of others, some ministries may be separated from others, and so on.

I am aware that some, including good friends, will not like some or all of what I have written, but what can we do? We have been harmed by compliments and our life has been ruined by silence toward mistakes and by justifying unjustifiable errors.

What the the country and people need most in the well-known, present circumstances that surround the country is frankness. We must bury flattery for ever.

Exchanging flattery and tolerating errors despite the fact that they are obviously premeditated and intentional, have produced sins and losses to the country and the people. From our ranks rose some who took to treason, practiced theft, and took bribes, feeling confident that they will ultimately get away with it because there is an official or a rich man capable of protecting them because of blood relationship or an ancient friendship.

We must learn democracy and practice it by word and deed. The absence of democracy and the failure to apply it in dealing with others will restrict the sincerity of those who would like to reveal the harm done to the country. It will be like a man who witnesses a murder being committed in the street and fails to report it to the police because he fears that he himslef may be suspected of committing the murder.

In the country's predicament now, we all must avoid haphazard judgments and false accusations. We must understand the meaning of words and phrases and use them in their proper place to avoid being accused of ignorance and unjustly harming others. We should not boast of knowing everything and with a highhanded

approach to matters, thus causing ourselves, others, and the state itself to lose the opportunity to offer the best service to the country and the people.

No doubt, there are among our people those who interpret patriotism and democracy as they wish, thus allowing various officials to wrong so many people and leaving the people no choice but to knock at the door of the president of the state and the people, Leader Saddam Husayn, to seek protection and mercy. This is a human and legitimate request and they always have what they want at the hands of struggler Saddam Husayn.

Forgive me, for I digress. All things intermingle and react with each other. What applies to a ministry or an institution could also apply to other ministries and institutions in various degrees. In this article, we just seek disengagement between information and culture. Perhaps it will then be possible to realize this disengagement in other ministries.

Columnist on Causes, Cures of Corruption—Part 1

JN1907163792 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Jul 92 p 8

[First part of an article by Ghazi al-'Ayyash in the "From the Heart" column: "Bribery"]

[Text] We respect the reader who has the courage to express his opinion with utter frankness and without fear or reluctance. We should not prevent what is in our hearts from jumping to our tongues. Bribery is a scourge that we should fight and root out. In the past, we used bribes in silence and with whispers. Now it has spread and floated to the surface. Many people are afraid of it and many others avoid getting involved in it although it is being dealt with publicly, if not becoming a widespread practice in more than one place.

We should give the issue of bribery the attention it deserves because of the threat it poses to our society and state. We should not remain silent over the spread of this lethal virus.

The reader [not further identified] says: We are beginning to hear some strange stories about corruption and bribery reaching despicable levels in some public and private institutions. There may be some exaggeration in these stories, but the truth in these stories occupies a big share. During our childhood, we used to hear about the al-Sa'idi police and its acceptance of bribes.

In the seventies and eighties, we used to see in movies and on television the cheating, deceit, forgery, bribery, and loss of morals and ethics in Egypt at that time, and we felt sorry for the state of our brothers in Egypt and thanked God for the state we were enjoying.

Regrettably, we now hear about methods of cheating, deceit, forgery, and bribery that have gone beyond what we saw in movies. The virus of corruption has penetrated the institutions and departments that had at one time been immune. The matter has reached the point where some departments, which deal with the citizen, are practicing bribery as a matter of course and in various ways.

If you do not pay, your papers will be delayed for days or weeks and will never come to light "because it is against the law." In some departments there are organized networks that deal with bribes skillfully and in an impeccable manner that is hard to root out.

Who is responsible? Where is the cure?

The responsibility and reasons for the spread of bribery are many, but the most important include: administrative backwardness and red tape, the economic siege imposed by the United States on the people of Iraq, the material needs of some people, the effect of some bad elements from the non-Iraqi workers in the country who introduced practices and habits alien to our society, morality, and habits. The citizen who does not bear responsibility and leaves it to others, also plays a role in the spread of bribery. This citizen takes the shortest and easiest path, even if it is illegal, to finish his paperwork because he does not know valid laws and their amendments. Some citizens take this path because they think that this is what others do; some are impatient and in a hurry; one is in need of something and considers his behavior justifiable in order to achieve his goal; another comes from remote provinces and is in a hurry to finish his paperwork; some traders, contractors, and employers use their skills in dealing with the employee through temptation after exploiting their social status; and some are morally weak for a variety of reasons.

All this, however, does not excuse the fact that what has been done is still a crime, and cannot be a reason for giving an excuse for those who commit it.

The important question remains: Where is the cure now that the most important causes have become evident?

We will meet again tomorrow.

Causes and Cures of Corruption—Part 2

JN2007072992 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Jul 92 p 8

[Second part of an article by Ghazi al-'Ayyash in "From the Heart" column: "Bribery"]

[Text] Everybody is responsible and all must appreciate this responsibility. Prevention is better than cure, as they say. We must not stand as spectators while this deadly virus, otherwise called bribery, is spreading because it is penetrating the minds of the people and the state's structure and is affecting our morality and values. It compels us to deviate and to destroy the most important factors of progress and construction. It will lead us astray and make us deviate from the path which we have chosen for ourselves. It is an octopus that creeps into our vital centers in order to paralyze and destroy them.

To go back to our previous question: What is the cure?

The reader [not further identified] says: When the citizen carries out his responsibility and plays his role, there will be a genuine reduction in red tape which exhausts the citizen and debilitates the official. No friction at all should be created between the official and the citizens in the departments concerned. Cadres must be changed and transferred from time to time. Those with sick minds and weak character must be identified, their role cut down to size, and all contacts between them and the citizens must be prevented. A section must be created to follow up citizens affairs and paperwork. One of its personnel should be in the enquiries section to receive papers from citizens, hand them over to competent departments, and return them to the citizens with the maximum speed possible. Persons of good conduct and morality should be selected to work in various departments. Competent and outstanding persons must be rewarded periodically. The employee must have all means of comfort during his work—transportation, water, and a good place of work. Work should be fairly distributed among the workers to ensure good performance.

Heads of departments must be given the power to give loans to the employee in the amount of 1,000 dinars and meet his urgent family needs by giving him long-term loans if possible. Heads of departments should also be empowered to give awards for longevity and for those who work in crowded departments. These heads must meet with employees on a monthly basis, listen to their complaints, and proposals in order to improve performance and production. The person who offers bribes must be severely punished because he is responsible for corrupting the minds of people. Officials must open their doors to citizens not only at their own convenience but whenever the citizens wish to meet with them so that the citizen will be given time to explain his problem without grumbling or narcissism by the official.

The national feeling makes it incumbent on every citizen to uphold public interests and shoulder his responsibility during these difficult circumstances in our country, which is under attack because of its resources, experience, and wealth. The government employee is the son of this country and we must protect him against and save him from corruption. We only deceive ourselves if we ignore the serious threat of bribes to our country under the pretext that this is a sensitive matter, that it is a transient phenomenon created during transient circumstances, and that it will disappear when the current conditions vanish. We are afraid that this phenomenon will ultimately be transformed into a cancer which will be hard to cure. Then all of our regrets will be in vain.

Saddam Chairs Meeting on Education—Part 3

JN1707071692 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 92 p 3

["Text" of the "third and last part" of the proceedings of a meeting chaired by President Saddam Husayn examining higher education in Iraq, on 11 July; place not given]

[Text]The president leader said: They have said that it is not necessary for people who pursue higher education to do so at the same university where they received their bachelor's or master's degree.

In any case, we will pursue the discussion because we are fond of discussions. However, we should not forget at the same time that part of this tradition adopted by the universities has an economic aspect. That is to say, the universities do not possess the capabilities that the state has to pool these capabilities in one specific direction to attain a certain high standard. For the universities to maintain a high standard and secure their reputation, they must keep the same professor, who taught bachelor's degree students, teaching master's degree students in the same buildings. This will be economically beneficial to universities because they cannot establish other buildings such as new administration buildings, other installations, nor can they appoint new professors. Do you not believe that this aspect is important?

I do not know. I have heard this from you for the first time.

For a university to merit its name, it does not necessarily mean that it should grant master's or doctorate degrees. Your universities were universities and they did not grant master's or doctorate degrees.

Therefore, a university can be as such without having departments for master's or doctoral studies. But if any university wants to enhance its status and expand its activities, it can introduce programs for master's or doctorate degrees. This means that expansion in this field is a practical rather than theoretical aspect. I know that our universities, such as those in Baghdad and Mosul, which are old universities, did not grant master's or doctorate degrees in the past. We used to call them universities because they met all the conditions of universities.

The more enhanced the status of a university, the more higher degrees it can introduce and the more scientific attention it can allot to these degrees and to maintaining high standards. In reply to what Dr. 'Abd-al-Razaq al-Hashimi said about our universities not adding faculties or centers for higher education outside them, the president leader said: They did not think about this because its professors would have to go outside the universities. But when professors are not part of their cadre—that is to say, when there are professors from all the universities—is it better to bring the students or the professors? These are questions which we will formulate through our discussion. I have no preconceptions about this.

Regarding what Dr. Safa' said about privileges that were previously discussed, as well as the question of giving students studying abroad a grant similar to those given to students in Iraq, and how this would affect professors in Iraq, the president leader said: I already spoke about the topic of not granting any privileges to students abroad, even if they do not return to Iraq, if such privileges are

not equal, in ideal cases, to the situation here. As for professors, I have said that we must give university professors pieces of land or houses if they do not already have these things. We must specify locations and zone them for such purposes. (The president's office is listening to this and will act accordingly.)

We should set forth conditions for granting Socialist Bank loans to professors in certain scientific fields to enable them to build on these pieces of land.

With regard to privileges offered by the state, martyrs come first. They are ahead of us all. Next to Iraq's flag, they are the crown of Iraq. Next come other people with privileges determined in light of their suffering. If we choose groups as a whole, we choose the armed forces, judges, university professors, and other groups in the community according to their classification. Within this classification, we can say that we are interested in industrial scientists. Scientists should be aware of our interest in all aspects of their lives. This may not occur to them. However, it is our duty to care and ask scientists to come to us so that we can ask about affairs in all aspects of their lives. The country or state which wants major achievements from its sons should provide for them all that is possible given their circumstances. Iraqis are patient and generous, and they do not hesitate to support each other.

In our lives, we have not handled any urgent matter without due consideration. We should always care for our sons and brothers and never leave them alone. A university professor or a holder of a doctorate degree, who can benefit our universities, is welcome to come and join the university community and experience its circumstances.

But when someone says, while still abroad: I will return if you give me so-and-so, we will not care for him. If he does not come to his country, his country will not go to him.

Let him come to his country, and he will see how we will support him and strive to provide what he needs. But when he says I want so-and-so before I return home, this is another issue. For example, you say we do not have foreign currency. In this case, we should support him with local currency. I say: Yes, we support him with local currency and give him local currency. A returnee should pay for his journey back and his for furniture. For our part, we will support him here, and pay his expenses in local currency equivalent to the dollar value on the black market. If a returnee proves that he is worthy of the privileges you have, he is welcome to have them. He is our son and we want him to contribute to the reconstruction of Iraq. However, circumstances have taught us that we should not care for those who do not want Iraq. Iraq is a country for all. If you want Iraq to cling to you, you should cling to it. Is not the returnee an Iraqi? Yes, he is. If his mother is not Iraqi, his father must be Iraqi. If the maternal aunts of some of them do not care for Iraq and have no affection for it, their paternal uncles should have affection for Iraq. If neither their maternal aunts nor their paternal uncles have any affection for Iraq, then it would be better if they remain abroad. For our part, we are staying here. This is our land. If the matter is within this framework, I believe it is not possible. [sentence as published]

We should discuss matters with our sons and convince otherwise those who have incorrect ideas or heard incorrect matters. However, we should not give them privileges and thus do injustice to those who stayed and suffered. You have stayed here and suffered. You did not leave the country, even though the road to Jordan is open to you.

This means that you wanted to live in your country, to construct it, and contribute to it. When it is wounded, who other than a son can heal the wounds of his kinfolk. The wound of your kinfolk is Iraq's wound. Now, everybody from his position is asked to heal. Do not ask me to do something if I would have to give more privileges to people outside than to you, the people inside, because in your hearts you will be sad, even though you have asked for this yourselves. Later, you will realize that those who have not had to endure the same as you have received better treatment. By this we would be creating psychological harm and would be undermining, as I said, the sound nationalist principles which I mentioned.

This is their country just as it is yours. They are welcome and we wish them a safe return. We will do what we can for them, but when there is something we cannot do for them, from the technical or educational point of view, then there are reasons for this.

I think that the picture has now become clear. Throughout the discussions here I have noticed no substantial differences among the brothers. They all show concern for their country, and this is something taken for granted from the people who have been tested. You have all been tested; the siege is imposed on all Iraqis, and they have remained in Iraq. The people did not leave their country as soon as they felt pressure on them. I say that all the Iraqis have been tested. They were tested for the eight years. They have been tested for the past two years, and were tested throughout the past 6,000 years. Iraq passed through several circumstances and experienced several occupiers who came, only to be driven out. They came and they were driven out because, for a long time, many people have had ambitions in this country. There are highlands around this country which is a valley with two rivers, an oasis, civilization, and prosperity.

The people used to come to it from the highlands and then the battles and problems began. But the country has continued to exist for 6,000 years.

Hence, everybody is concerned about how their country can advance, and everybody is aware of the situation. Sometimes, it appears that there is an emphasis by some

brothers to remind their other brothers about the importance of preserving scientific regulations.

Some of your brothers remind other brothers, who are concerned with the scientific aspects, to pay attention to scientific factors and to provide a chance for people of science so as not to feel that they lag behind in taking an academic title because of the homeland. All that they wanted was that the title not be given to them arbitrarily. They wanted to be tested by those most concerned with the scientific aspects, in accordance with the regulations on the basis of which others are being tested. This means that they present research papers, take examinations; all their scientific aspects are scrutinized, and those who supervise them make sure that there is creativity in their research work.

If this is available, why are they being denied it? Those people can apply for their degrees. It could be that a person has remained in the missiles arena and stayed up late at night at his factory or laboratory, in order to produce a missile that reaches Tel Aviv or Tehran, when Tehran started to hit Baghdad, and we did not have a means to reply at the time. So this country must pay attention to that person, and it is illogical that we should ignore him.

Afterwards, you will pay attention to your brothers, and I think that you will be satisfied when you see the level of creativity in the research they will present to you. This will take a real shape. We are not talking here about repairing a machine which is out of order. No, it is a real creation of technology. It could be that at the time, the people concerned were not eager to make this research public, so that delayed it. Or that the author did not want to publish it and was not interested in the issue, since he has an objective in his mind and conscience and wants to achieve results for his country. This is because the process of creation in wartime is of a different nature in light of pressing demands to be fulfilled, whose results are linked to the homeland and country. This description applies to many of your brothers.

You should remedy this situation, especially since we talk about certain people as scientists, and not simply as people who operate a machine at a factory. No, it is not like that. Those people create a machine denied us by the blockade.

The creation process achieved by your brothers is part of enhancing the scientific and academic levels. This assures us about the academic level. I would even say that your brothers would achieve very satisfactory scientific results. I am here reassuring you more, but without relieving you of the responsibility to observe thoroughly the regulations you have set when you deal with doctorate graduates from your universities.

But if we ask ourselves the following question: Did Britain give doctorate degrees in 1940? I do not know, but I presume it did. I here ask: Is the academic level of the people who taught doctoral students at British universities higher than that of the people we want now to qualify to teach doctoral students? I would say the answer is no. Their level is not higher, but had they not done this, they would not have reached a higher level at the time. I am only saying this just to give you an example of what I mean, since the step we want to take is important and dictated by circumstances.

The tradition we have observed in the modern Iraqi state after the July revolution dictates this stand, so that we will be sure that our step is in the right direction. But once we are convinced that it is sound, we should implement it speedily without any hesitation. Every act must have an objective. To achieve any given objective, we have to provide the necessary requirements to be on the safe side, as they say. So you should define your needs, such as equipment, labs, and teachers.

Dr. Mundhir al-Shawi is present here, and he is a former minister and a prominent Iraqi figure. Therefore, you see that whenever there is an important legal discussion we invite Dr. al-Shawi to the meeting. He also comes whenever there is discussion on higher education. You will also see other former ministers, prominent figures, and current ministers who also come to teach, each in his own field of expertise. However, one must not be asked to teach something he cannot, but if he is requested to lecture on what he can, he will not hesitate to do so.

I told you, if you need this building for higher studies, you will take it after a few days. So, we must not waste time on how to build, but we must decide how many buildings we want. There are many buildings in Iraq which we can replace with other buildings, and which, after some changes, can be suitable for you more than for other brothers, and so on and so forth. For example, if there is a laboratory in the Atomic Agency, we can move it to another place, and bring a group to this laboratory; or we can take a laboratory from the Military Industrialization Organization and provide for the university's use. We can do this. You are like one who wants to prepare an army for war but does not want to fight. If you want to prepare an army for war, then you must fight. If we think of any step, we must begin work toward it. If we stop discussion on this and come back 10 years later, you will see that we are still discussing the same problems. They might not be on the same level, but 10 or five years is not too short a time in our lives for us to resolve our problems. So, the situation we are experiencing is something we did not invent. The truth is that there is a premeditated scientific blockade. Even if the economic blockade is lifted, you will see that they will maintain other forms of blockade, including the scientific blockade. Just as France, Britain, the United States, and the present Russia began awarding doctorate degrees in the forties, we should begin with this and expand it. We have always confronted such a case, and we used to analyze it this way, and everyone used to emerge enthusiastic, feeling that this is his own program.

I would like to explain to you something we experienced in the state, in the industrial field. Of course, it is unlike the case we are discussing now, but it will give us an idea.

At the planning council, there was a discussion on whether on not we should begin with industrialization or secure its requirements first. I told them, let us begin with industrialization, because if we do not begin with industrialization, then we will never have the requirements. So, if we had continued discussion on how to secure the requirements without embarking on a program industrialization, we would not have had the requirements. However, since we began our industrialization, we have never forgotten that we must secure the requirements. So, day after day, you will see that the whole process is interrelated. You can achieve progress, and then add requirements to this. It is like an army with no staff officers. It cannot perform its required duties. The university, without advanced specialities, foremost of which being doctorate degrees, is like an army with no staff officers.

The universities themselves experienced blockade conditions. Do you not have teachers without doctorate degrees? Did you not have teachers that held masters degrees?

The audience replied: Yes.

The president said: So, we are talking about your brothers, the holders of masters degrees. I believe that each one of them claims a long list of inventions that you admire. Apply your regulations and do not be lenient. I cannot, and may not, advise you to ignore the regulations. On the contrary, I will watch and make sure you apply the following regulations: Examine them in theory, verbally and in writing, and notice what they have. When you notice what they have, you will be sure that your decision was right. But it is natural for some of the brothers to want to assure themselves about the scientific aspect, as they did not see it with their eyes, or tangibly feel it. I am sure that when they see and sense it, they will be very happy with their decision.

We have to mobilize our national capabilities to implement the program. The national capabilities of the country mean the material, human, and scientific resources. Everything should be directed toward this objective.

We will emerge with good results, God willing. I am sure that your determination and loyalty to the homeland, and your understanding of the special circumstances of the country will produce extraordinary results, like the good achievements in the field of industry. You may not have seen those achievements as I saw them, and I do not know all that Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil knows, and Lt. Gen. Husayn does not know the small details that Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid knows in the field of electronics, for example. We do not want to give the example of Dr. Ja'far Dia', because the field example is sometimes considered suspicious; nor do we want to give the example of Dr. Humam 'Abd-al- Khaliq and his knowledge about atomic energy for peaceful purposes, for instance. All these men and women, who enjoy a high scientific standard, will help you in teaching while continuing their work. They will help you by nominating students for you. They need outstanding people in the field of industry, and these need to be encouraged. Each one of these students should feel: My country did not forget that I worked for 10 years in my field of specialization, contributing to the process of new creativity. My country told me: This is your research. Present it to your brothers. If they are convinced, they will give you a degree, and if not, there is no harm.

At the same time, we need brilliant people in the field of creativity. We need to teach them how to write, and how to speak like you. They may not be able to speak as you do; that is, it is perhaps difficult for them to organize their ideas as you do, but insofar as science, research, reading, and suffering are concerned, they are of the highest level.

When someone is asked to put his experience down on paper in an organized fashion to convince you, he will have to read and improve his writing style. This will take him time. And since you want him to observe certain regulations, he will need time. Now, even if we ask Dr. Ja'far Diya' Ja'far to take a test, he will say: (Give me some time to go over my papers and rewrite them.) I fear that (the fellows) might have taken some of those papers because he is important and they do not want him to remain with us. So, I must present something creative in order for my brothers to grant him a doctorate degree in addition to the PhD which I hold.

No one can present his dissertation immediately if we ask him to do so. At least he will say: Give me a chance until I finalize my dissertation and show it to my supervisor. He will say that he needs at least six months. Naturally, he will take more time. They are now, as the popular saying goes, unable to scratch their heads because of their workload and long office hours. Naturally, there is no leniency in this work program which should be fully observed.

Therefore, the student will not be devoted to writing his dissertation to present it to you because his original program is going on, and at the same time he is preparing his thesis. Therefore, it will take a long time because the student will be with you, and it will take time to appoint a supervisor for him and to agree with this supervisor on the field in which he wants to present his thesis, and to convince him that what he will present includes something new and creative. Is not that right?

Hence, the process takes time. What is more important is to provide the requisites of higher education so that this education provides us with the objective we are speaking about now. I mean that the objective should continue at the same time in which our work goes on. We should not wait for instructions to push us, but we should continue working even after this meeting, God willing.

We should continue to work at the same time everyone is running to provide the necessities. The Presidency is doing what it should and Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil, Dr.

Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq, Dr. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, and Usamah al-Hiti, each in his field of specialization, will inform you about your brothers who are able to lecture at the university, etcetera, so as to start arranging your schedule in accordance with times suitable to them.

Rely on God, God willing you have a result that pleases us all. God bless you, we are learning from you, we learn from the military, from the workers, and from the farmers. We do this within the context of the responsibility we shoulder, and we change this into practice.

Rely on God, God bless you. I am confident that the Iraqi citizen has nothing to do with the impossible on this earth within the framework of the laws that Almighty God permits. The impossible has become part of us. God willing you will realize great success. We are close to each other and we are always with you, God willing. Rely on God. Thank you, and convey my greetings to your brothers the university professors. I request that you pay attention to the other requisites, including the aspects which we spoke about at the beginning of the meeting—to start doing this from right now and during vacation. He who has allocations that are wasted can quickly make a telephone call and say that his allocations have ended and ask to transfer new allocations for this or that purpose in order to know, during vacation, how much can we achieve. This can be done so that the professor comes to his study with more interest. By this we would be achieving a great result, God willing. Thank you.

Reportage on Secretary of State Baker's Visit

Peres 'Optimistic' After Meeting

TA2007133292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The meeting of Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres with Secretary of State James Baker and his aide Dennis Ross ended a while ago. Coming out of the meeting, Foreign Minister Peres said that they discussed substantial issues regarding the peace process and the loan guarantees. Peres said that the conversation was good and that he is optimistic.

Eytan to Hold Meeting 21 Jul

TA2007141992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] A meeting between Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will be held tomorrow morning at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. Knesset Member Eytan told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that he was addressed on this by a third party.

At the same time, our political correspondents cites U.S. sources as saying that Eytan was the one who asked for the meeting. Refa'el Eytan believes that Baker has to hear different views when discussing matters which are crucial for Israel.

Rabin, Economic Officials Meet Baker

TA2007152792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Live report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem; Rabin's comments recorded in English]

[Excerpt] The third meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and James Baker at the Prime Minister's Office has just ended. It was perhaps the most important one because it was attended by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel. At the end of the meeting, both Baker and Rabin addressed the media. Rabin said that a series of issues was discussed, including bilateral relations with the United States—Israel, after all, intended to ask for military and economic aid—naturally the loan guarantees, and changing the order of priorities. Yitzhaq Rabin thanked Baker for coming to the region.

[Rabin] I would like to thank the secretary of state for the time and effort he has made in coming over, talking to us, trying to help find ways to solve problems in the region with our neighbors and to assist Israel to be more capable to cope with its own problems. Mr. Secretary, thank you very much. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister on Baker Meeting

TA2007172792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat says that in the meeting with Secretary Baker this afternoon, the sides discussed the scope of the guarantees that Israel is requesting from the United States. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that for 1993-94, Israel is asking for $2 billion a year in loan guarantees. The sums for subsequent years will be decided later, according to the number of immigrants who arrive and the state of Israel's foreign currency reserves. The talk also dealt with bilateral relations and the new government's order of priorities.

Rabin: No New Settlements Needed

TA2007202092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Another meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and James Baker ended a while ago at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. Our correspondents Shlomo Raz and Hayim Hecht report that the discussion mainly revolved around the issue of settlements. Mr. Baker was told that Israel does not see a need to set up new settlements and that construction starts in the territories will be dealt with according to their legal standing and the economic results of stopping them.

Baker arrived at the meeting with detailed information on construction in the territories.

Uri Lubrani, head of the team dealing with freeing Israel's POW's and MIA's, arrived at the King David Hotel a while ago for a meeting with Secretary of State Baker's aides. Lubrani told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the issues he is dealing with are known to all and that these are the issues he will discuss with Baker's aides.

Peres, Eytan Comment

TA2107080592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Large teams of officials of the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the U.S. State Department, respectively headed by Shim'on Peres and James Baker, are currently discussing the promotion of the peace process. Earlier, Baker met with Refa'el Eytan, head of the Tzomet faction. Our correspondent Yaron Qulas reports live from the broadcasting van at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem:

[Qulas] U.S. Secretary of State Baker and Foreign Minister Peres have just emerged, and will now proceed to say a few words to the media.

[Peres, in English] I have expressed our gratefulness for the visit of the secretary of state to Israel. We think the earlier the visit took place, the better it was. We feel that we have had a very fruitful and promising beginning. I

do believe that things will be concluded when the President of the United States and the prime minister of Israel will meet sometime in August. In the meantime, we shall continue to work on many details, both on the bilateral negotiations and the multilateral promises. We feel that we started a new momentum for peace that we shall continue and support all the way. [passage omitted]

[Qulas] Prior to his meeting with Peres and Israeli Foreign Ministry staffers, Secretary Baker had a meeting with Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan at the latter's request. Eytan said he wanted to meet the secretary of state and present Tzomet's political views. Here is what Refa'el Eytan told us after his meeting with Baker:

[Begin Eytan recording] I did not hear anything from him that should give me cause for concern. I explained to him the importance of settlement, how settlement got started without any restrictions prior to the foundation of the state. I described to him Tzomet's and my perception of the Arab world and told him that its conduct is not determined by a settlement here or a settlement there. Its conduct is nothing new, but rather began 100 years ago. He understood this very well. [end recording]

Rabin Ready for Golan 'Compromise'

TA2107101092 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Jul 92 pp 1, 19

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] If Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad were to state in public that he is prepared to reach a peace settlement with Israel, the latter would be willing to promote the negotiations with Syria and also discuss a territorial compromise concerning the Golan Heights.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is relaying a message in this spirit to the Syrian president through U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Last night Rabin empowered Baker to tell the Syrian president that "there is something to talk about," in view of the fact that Israel is willing to take advantage of the opportunity that has been created to settle the conflict with Syria.

Rabin had a lengthy tete-a-tete with Baker at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem last night. He told the secretary of state that the Syrian president must state in public that he is prepared to reach a peace settlement with Israel.

He promised that if an opportunity indeed arises to negotiate peace with Syria, Israel will be willing to discuss a compromise on the Golan Heights.

Reliable political sources noted that Rabin is thus seeking to allay Syria's fears that the Israeli Government is not interested, as it were, in advancing the negotiations with it and prefers to focus on the talks with the Palestinians.

During the election campaign, Rabin said that he would agree to a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights but rejected a total withdrawal. This position was reiterated to James Baker. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Meeting with Baker 'Good'

TA2007141592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] A short while ago, Kakh activist Tiran Polak was apprehended by Border Police after he cocked his gun outside the al-Hakawati Theater in East Jerusalem, where the heads of the Palestinian delegation were holding their news conference.

In the conference, delegation spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi said that their meeting with James Baker was good and that the U.S. secretary of state showed understanding for the Palestinian demands that they elect the delegation exclusively and that he work for the continuation of the policy to freeze settlements. Our correspondent in the territories, Udi Segal, has the details:

The skirmish took place outside the al-Hakawati Theater in East Jerusalem. Kakh activist Tiran Polak arrived on the site armed with an Uzi submachine gun. Several of Hanan 'Ashrawi's unarmed bodyguards approached him, asking him to leave. Polak cocked his gun and aimed it in all directions. Soon after, a Border Police officer arrived. He apprehended Polak and took him in for questioning.

At the news conference, Palestinian delegation spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the meeting with Baker was candid. It dealt with the promotion of the peace process, she said. According to 'Ashrawi, Baker made it clear that he is currently more interested in moving to practical courses of action and less in dealing with principles. Regarding the issue of the loan guarantees, she said that as long as the United States knows how to control the funds in a way that will prevent their transfer to the territories, the Palestinians will have no problem with this.

'Ashrawi Willing To Meet Rabin

TA2007164592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] This afternoon, Secretary of State Baker met with the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Later they held a news conference at the al-Hakawati Theater in East Jerusalem. The meeting with Baker lasted three hours.

After the news conference, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi told our correspondent Miryam Herschlag that if she is invited to meet Yitzhaq Rabin, she will respond favorably, providing the meeting helps promote the political process:

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording in English] Well, we would consider it if the invitation is issued and if there is a clear purpose and it helps the peace process. [end recording]

'Ashrawi told reporters that the conversation with Baker dealt with the accelerated promotion of the peace process. The Palestinian delegation expressed the hope that the bilateral talks start in Rome as soon as the beginning of August.

'Ashrawi added that the Palestinians have recognized both the change in the tone of the remarks made by the Israeli Government, and its willingness to deal seriously with transferring authority to the self-government and to hold elections in the territories. The Palestinians reiterated their stand that they are waiting to see whether the change in tone becomes practical, saying that they have already taken all the steps they can. They do not need to respond to Israel's moves with moves of their own, they said.

Demand for Legislative Assembly Dropped

TA2107050492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Palestinian leaders in the territories have begun to prepare for the general elections which, according to the plans, will be held at the end of the year. In their meeting with the U.S. secretary of state yesterday, the Palestinians dropped their demand to set up a legislative assembly in the territories and agreed to initially hold elections for the establishment of a body that will be handed over the authority of self-administration in the territories. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

The Palestinian leaders have decided to hold general elections in the territories at the end of this year. In their meeting with Secretary Baker, the Palestinians asked that the elections be held under international auspices. At Baker's request, they agreed to drop their plans to hold elections to a legislative assembly that would be the basis for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories. They complied with his request to initially hold general elections to set up an administrative council that would be handed over the authority of self-administration in the territories. The Palestinian leaders pointed out in the meeting that an infrastructure of parties exists in the territories which would compete for the seats in the autonomy's administrative council or parliament in a democratic fashion. They were probably referring to parties based on existing organizations—such as Fatah, the Popular Front, and perhaps also Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], if the differences with it are settled—similar to those which have in the past run in elections to chambers of commerce in the territories.

Staffers at the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem have begun looking into preparing for a general election and have held several meetings on the issue with Palestinian figures. The five Palestinian delegates who conferred with Baker yesterday expressed their satisfaction with the Israeli Government's announcement about freezing building contracts in the territories, but advised Baker to wait and see real steps to this effect on the part of the Israeli Government.

Conditions for Joining Talks Noted

TA2007110292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Political sources have said that Secretary of State Baker will learn of Jerusalem's readiness to include representatives from the Palestinian diaspora in the economic development committee and perhaps even in the committee on refugees at the multilateral talks, on the condition that the United States clearly states that the PLO is not a partner to the talks and that the inclusion of diaspora representatives does not constitute any form of precedent regarding the right of return issue.

Israel will also request that it be clarified that the diaspora representatives will not be included in the bilateral negotiations with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Fires Set to Protest Baker Visit

TA2007043292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Several groups have claimed responsibility for setting fire to trash cans in Jerusalem last night in protest against Secretary of State Baker's visit. One of the calls was from the Kakh group, who told the ITIM news agency the fires were meant to sound an alarm for the government that if it starts with autonomy for the Palestinians, the whole country will burn.

Three cars were torched in Jerusalem last night in the Abu-Tor neighborhood. The vehicles were parked on 'En Rogel Street.

Rabin Leaves for Cairo To Meet Mubarak

TA2107083792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left for Cairo a short time ago to confer with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

HADASH Congratulates Mubarak

TA2007110392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The chairman of the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] communists, Knesset Member Tawfiq Zayyad, has cabled congratulations to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on his decision to invite Prime Minister Rabin to Egypt. This move represents a change in the traditional stance of HADASH, which was critical of Egypt for concluding the Camp David agreements.

Rabin Denies Requesting Arab Leaders Summit

TA2107090292 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 21 Jul p 1

[Report by Aharon Barne'a and Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is leaving this morning for Egypt for a visit of several hours, during which he will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Diplomatic sources in Cairo last night said Rabin will ask Mubarak to mediate in setting up a summit meeting between Rabin, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Jordan's King Husayn, and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Rabin's bureau last night denied this report. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Secretary, King Husayn Reportedly Met Twice

TA2107060192 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein met twice with Jordan's King Husayn over the past few weeks. 'AL HAMISHMAR learned of this fact from reliable sources.

'AL HAMISHMAR was told that the meetings between King Husayn and Elyaqim Rubinstein were held in London while the Shamir government was still in power. The talks mainly focused on the peace process. 'AL HAMISHMAR was also informed that the meetings between Rubinstein and Husayn were the main reason for Prime Minister Rabin's decision to keep Rubinstein on as cabinet secretary for another three months. Yitzhaq Rabin was apprised of the mutual affection and respect that has developed between Rubinstein and King Husayn and consequently seeks to keep this channel of communications open for the immediate future.

Ministry Doubles Scope of Construction Freeze

TA2107101992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jul 92 p A3

[Report by Nadav Shragay and Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] The Construction and Housing Ministry has expanded and actually doubled the scope of the freeze on construction in the territories by applying the freeze order to approximately 3,000 additional housing units for which land excavation work has begun. The number of housing units in the territories whose construction has been frozen now totals 6,500.

A week ago, it was decided not to build 3,500 units from the Construction and Housing Ministry's 1990-92 program, for which contracts were already signed. Now the Construction Ministry has halted construction of units that were included in the program which has already been approved. Contracts for these units have already been signed with contractors and in some cases even with private buyers.

There are an additional 13,000 housing units in the territories upon which construction work was started when Ari'el Sharon was construction minister. Approximately 500 of these units have already been populated, and another 3,500 are in the process of being completed, and they will be connected to the electricity and water grids and settled by the end of September.

Most of the construction work—the 9,000 other housing units—are in various stages of completion ranging from final foundation work to finished buildings. Contracts have already been signed for all the 13,000 housing units. In addition, the Construction and Housing Ministry is building thousands of housing units within the framework of the "Metropolitan Jerusalem" and "Jerusalem District" projects, as well as in Ma'ale Adumim and Giv'at Ze'ev. The construction of these will apparently continue.

A decision to freeze road construction is also expected within a short time. It has already been learned that work on the Nabulus bypass will be stopped, as well as work on other bypass roads. The regulations that permitted the paving of what were defined as security roads will be changed. These roads were paved without asphalt and without permits from the planning commissions.

On the other hand, the government is considering whether to continue work on the tunnel linking Jerusalem and Gush 'Etzyon, since Gush 'Etzyon falls within the perimeters of "Metropolitan Jerusalem" and the security settlements. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 21 July in a page 3 report by Moti Bassok reports that "the Construction and Housing Ministry yesterday instructed all the contractors it employs in the territories to freeze work on all buildings on which foundation work has not yet begun.

This is the third order to freeze construction in the territories issued by the new government within a week. Earlier, work was halted on structures that had received building licenses but on which the actual work had not yet started. Two days ago, the government imposed a freeze on the building of new settlements. A small number of the housing units on which construction work was stopped have already been sold."]

SLA Soldier, 'Terrorist' Killed in Clash

TA1707201692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] In a clash today between SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers and terrorists in the central sector of the security zone, an SLA soldier and one of the terrorists were killed. The other terrorists escaped. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the clash took place some 10 km north of Kibbutz Misgav 'Am. RPG's [rocket-propelled grenades], a grenade launcher, a machine gun, and ammunition were found on the site.

Nayif Hawatimah's organization, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has announced that its men took part in the clash.

Secretary of State Baker Arrives in Amman 21 Jul

JN2107101392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Mr. James Baker arrived in Amman at noon today on a visit to Jordan as part of a tour of the countries in the region. During the visit, Mr. Baker will hold official talks with His Majesty King Husayn and top officials on ways to invigorate the peace process and the latest developments pertaining to it, and bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, Foreign Ministry officials, the Amman governor, the director of the Amman public security department, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman welcomed him on arrival at the airport.

Islamic Movement Statement Denounces Baker's Visit

JN2107081492 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Jul 92 p 24

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Movement representatives have denounced U.S. Secretary of State Baker's visit to the region.

In a statement issued yesterday, they rejected turning the sacred Palestinian cause into a ball shifting in the hands of international conspiracies and Israeli trickery. They also rejected using the blessed Palestinian cause as a means to serve Bush's election program.

In their statement, the representatives urged our kinfolk in Palestine to unify their ranks against the conspiratorial scheme and protect their national unity from any internecine fighting that would only serve the Jews' interest.

They called on our kinfolk in Palestine to continue their blessed intifadah and to protect it from those conspiring against it.

Baker Seeking 'Concessions' To Win Jewish Votes

JN2007113392 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Jul 92 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "Baker's Election Tour"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker entered the land of Palestine two days after the Zionist occupation authorities expelled six of its sons without our hearing any U.S. condemnation of this racist crime or false denunciation of this practice that violates human rights, the new world order, and all the morals and principles which the U.S. Administration has been speaking about.

Mr. Baker wants to convince us that the departure of Shamir and advent of Rabin are the result of a wholesome U.S. policy, and as a result of U.S. pressures to achieve peace. Despite our acceptance of these U.S. claims, we cannot agree with the U.S. secretary that he has come to the region to hear new and different things from the Arab side. The issue, as Mr. Baker knows or as we assume he knows or should know, is not one of real Arab concessions in exchange for false Israeli concessions, or of an Arab relinquishment of a right in return for progress in the Israeli position that will further encroach on our rights. If this were the case, we would not have needed the "U.S. efforts" and would not have waited a quarter of a century for the superpowers—or the ones that were superpowers—to start respecting international legitimacy and exert forceful efforts to impose it. We view the U.S. role as not only an effort to impose peace but more as an effort to restore prestige to international legitimacy and make the Zionist side respect it once again. We do not think that such a request is unattainable, especially since we now see the U.S. experts besieging the Iraqi Agriculture Ministry, reiterating their claim that there are important documents inside the building. These claims merely show the overwhelming U.S. desire to scorn and harm the Arabs and to even enter their bedrooms under the cover of international legitimacy, a legitimacy that disappears whenever the issue deals with the Zionist entity and the resolutions of legitimacy which deal with the Palestinian rights in particular, and Arab rights in general.

We welcome Mr. Baker and realize how critical and difficult his trip is this time. His president is lagging behind in the election campaign and it is not in the interest of any U.S. candidate to support Arab rights or to even refer to them. The new world order with its sole leadership is reassured about the votes and money of its allies in the region. From this premise, the U.S. secretary has come to ask us for new things that he can exchange for the Jewish votes to confront the democratic candidate who is not any better than the republican candidate in this U.S. race, which is based on one rule only, that of continuing to insult the Arab nation, and international legitimacy when dealing with the Arab nation's issues, and continuing to slaughter the Iraqi people and even besieging their children's bedrooms.

Baker Trip Said 'Appeasing Jewish Voters'

JN1907104892 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Jul 92 p 32

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Jordan First!"]

[Text] While in Amman, the U.S. secretary of state must hear clear words. He cannot discuss peace with us while his administration is launching economic and psychological warfare against Jordan.

Through military terrorism and oil bribes, Washington managed to disrupt pan-Arab law and impose its own law instead. Afterward, it managed to hit us state after state and tribe after tribe and to tear down this nation in the most horrible way seen by this nation since Sykes-Picot.

And now what? Washington's secretary of state is arriving in the region carrying the "banner of peace."

Meanwhile, his intelligence services and navies are working to harm our economy by imposing a blockade on us on the pretext of imposing a blockade on Iraq. They are also waging psychological warfare which may terrify dummies and fools, but will move nothing in us but rancor and defiance.

Mr. James Baker must hear clear words to this effect. We know that:

—This peace trip is a U.S. election trip which is aimed at appeasing Jewish voters at our expense;

—The peace that is wanted by Washington is an Israeli view of peace, nothing else; and

—That Jordan and its role in the peace process are not in anybody's pocket nor should they be taken for granted.

We know that Baghdad will intensify the situation in the region again, and that Washington and its collaborators in the region are stepping on our toes to intimidate and terrorize us. However, they must know that rational, pan-Arab, and respectable Jordan fears nobody; neither does it fear terrorism.

We know that as Washington proceeds to extend to Rabin the price of the Republicans' forthcoming sucess—having offered Rabin his election success—it is interested in placing some of its friends on the backs of the Arab cordon states and the PLO. However, this as well cannot be taken for granted or be considered in anybody's pocket.

What is important is that Jordan and Jordan's interests come first!

Baker 'Deal'—Loan Guarantees for Vote Guarantees

JN1907094692 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jul 92 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Is There a U.S.-Israeli Deal on the Horizon?"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is expected to arrive in Israel tomorrow on a new tour of the Middle East.

During Baker's tour of the region, new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will pay a visit to Egypt.

It is expected that a meeting will be held in Cairo between Egyptian President Mubarak, Baker, and Rabin to discuss Baker's plan for nudging the peace process along.

It seems that the U.S. secretary, who will start his new tour in the region by visiting Israel, pins great hopes on Yitzhaq Rabin's role in activating the peace process.

We believe that Secretary Baker would have lost some of his hope had the siege imposed on al-Najah University continued and had he seen the terrorist and violent practices the Israeli occupation authorities employ against the universities, institutes, and schools in the occupied territories.

We do not doubt that the U.S. secretary will carry with him a plan for a deal with Israel. He will show U.S. readiness to offer the loan guarantees to Tel Aviv in return for an effective Israeli role with the Zionist organizations in the United States to win support for President Bush in the soon-to-be-held U.S. presidential elections.

He will also ask Rabin to take a flexible stand on the peace process to revive the hopes of the Palestinians and the Arab parties about the possibility of improving the prospects of the peaceful settlement and to portray the Bush administration to the U.S. electorate as the successful sponsor of peace process. This may increase the popularity of Bush and the possibilities of his success in the forthcoming elections.

Clearly, the Egyptian regime blesses this trend and is prepared to embark on an effective role to serve it, especially since the Egyptian regime is trying to appear as an effective and active party in advancing the peace process.

Undoubtedly, the invitation to Rabin to visit Cairo was a step in this direction. It is known that the Egyptian regime is the one that called for halting settlement construction in return for lifting the Arab boycott of Israel.

However, the deal Baker will carry to Israel may lead Rabin's government to be more intransigent rather than adopting flexible positions. Baker's attempts and pressures may be directed to the Palestinians and the Arab parties rather than Israel.

Hence, we call for upgrading the level of coordination among the Arab countries bordering Israel and to be alert and cautious toward what the U.S. secretary will present in the capitals he will visit.

U.S. Democrats' Platform 'Dangerous Deviation'

JN1807085092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jul 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Votes of Deviation]

[Text] The U.S. Democratic Party's platform on the Palestinian problem that was adopted on the first day of its convention in New York City a few days ago is a dangerous deviation from well established U.S. policies in the region. By moving in the direction of sealing the future of Jerusalem in declaring the Holy City as the capital of Israel, the Democratic Party and its leadership appear to play dirty politics with the politically and emotionally charged subject. This ominous demonstration of expediency does not augur well for the leadership of Bill Clinton, the Democratic Party presidential candidate, or for the future of American-Arab relations

under any Democratic administration. Unlike other regional conflicts in the Middle East on which the Arab and Islamic countries may be divided, there is solid unity among them on the issue of Jerusalem which precludes its continued occupation and annexation by Israel. This solidarity on the future of the Holy City cannot be expected to slacken or waiver no matter how long the Zionist state perpetuates its occupation and annexation.

Over and above the fact that the entire U.N. system, including the Security Council, has repeatedly declared Israel's annexation of Jerusalem null and void, there is unanimity among the Muslims and Christians of the world that the Holy City permanently occupies a central place in their faiths and establishes an integral part of the three monotheistic religions. Therefore no amount or degree of immoral politics can alter or diminish this universal perspective. For the Democratic Party now to play politics with it in order to win some votes is therefore treacherous in the extreme. The Jewish vote in the next U.S. presidential elections scheduled to take place in November cannot be so important as to put the entire U.S. interests in the Middle East on the line. With the U.S.-brokered peace hanging precariously in the balance, any wrong signal from Clinton about the future course or structure of the impending peace talks between Israel and the various Arab parties can only dampen the prospects of attaining peace in the area. This is especially so in view of the fact that the Democratic candidate's chances of getting elected to the White House have been enhanced considerably in the wake of Ross Perot's departure from the presidential race. The latest opinion polls indicate that Clinton's popularity shot up considerably in recent days, particularly after Perot's withdrawal. This is thus a time for Clinton and his party to talk and exercise high and responsible statesmanship instead of sinking to new lows in politiking. President George Bush has been assuming a rather low profile in the presidential race and therefore the world has not heard the last word from him. Bush is nowhere being written off in spite of the new success of Clinton, which in any way might be temporary. Surely though the President has few punches to pull yet. [sentence as published] But whether it is Bush or Clinton, who wins the next election, the interests of the peace negotiations and the stability and security of the Middle East must not be put in jeopardy just for the sake of Jewish votes in U.S. elections.

Editorial Views King Husayn's Visit to Damascus

JN1707181292 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jul 92 p 1

[Editorial: "King Husayn's Meeting With al-Asad and the Inevitability of Arab Coordination"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Damascus and his talks with brother President Hafiz al-Asad is a consecration of Jordan's continuing call for the need to coordinate among the Arab countries participating in the peace process. This emanates from Jordan's principled, constant, and firm commitment to reject separate solutions and the need to coordinate the Arab parties' stands to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem and the Middle East crisis through full implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 procceeding from the fact that international legitimacy is an indivisible whole and the need to implement this legitimacy on anyone, away from selectiveness and double standards.

Jordan's policy, led by His Majesty King Husayn, which calls for the need to completely solve the region's issues peacefully and based on equality and recognizing the legitimate rights of the region's people to self-determination, foremost of whom are the Palestinian people, has gained credibility from all parties. This is necessarily reflected in his qualifications to lead coordination among the Arab parties to secure regaining the full Arab rights on the various fronts all at once by closing the gaps which Israel is trying to penetrate to reach separate and partial solutions with each Arab party on its own aimed at imposing the peace its wants without giving back any Arab rights in an attempt to keep the land and gain peace altogether.

Before and since the start of the peace process, Jordan has called for the need of Arabs to get rid of side differences and to overcome the wounds of the past by confronting the greater danger represented in an attempt to harm legitimate Arab rights.

His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with brother President Hafiz al-Asad embodies a new dimension in Arab coordination and cooperation. Following the changes that recently took place in the Israeli leadership through the Labor Party's victory over the Likud bloc and waiting for the results of the U.S. elections, the Arab parties concerned with the peace process had to define and agree on constants so that it would be easier to adhere to them at least. The Arab parties also had to achieve the necessary coordination among the Arab delegations in the peace negotiations to be able to clarify the truth behind the new political leadership in Israel to put the world before its responsibilities if it becomes clear that the two Yitzhaqs are one whose aim is to achieve normalization without giving back the land and legitimate Arab rights.

Islamists Said Responsible for Cinema Blast

JN2007155892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Jordanian security authorities have blamed Islamic extremists for a blast that took place in a movie theater in al- Baq'ah camp on the northern outskirts of Amman last Wednesday [15 July]. The blast resulted in slight injuries to six moviegoers. [Jordanian media have not been observed to carry the above report]

Buwayz Not To Meet Baker on Visit to Riyadh

NC2007140792 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Beirut, July 20 (AFP)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz on Tuesday [as received] rejected an offer to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Saudi Arabia, government sources said.

Buwayz accepted an invitation from his Saudi counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal to visit Saudi Arabia, but not at the same time as Baker.

The Lebanese foreign minister had last week already rejected Baker's offer to meet for talks on the Middle East peace process outside Lebanon for reasons of "national dignity."

The United States has maintained a travel ban on Lebanon since 1985, following the hijacking of a TWA plane during which a U.S. Navy diver was shot and killed and his body dumped on the tarmac of Beirut airport.

Washington said Baker would like to link up with Buwayz in one of the Arab capitals on his current tour of the Middle East. He travels to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

Consultations With U.S. Envoy

NC2107062092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] U.S.-Lebanese contacts have resumed through U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, who met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday. Crocker has also met with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz several times over the past 48 hours. The contacts are aimed at arranging a meeting between Buwayz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during Baker's current tour of the Middle East.

Our diplomatic correspondent reports that a new U.S. proposal calls for holding a Buwayz-Baker meeting aboard a Lebanese ship—flying the Lebanese flag—in Lebanese territorial waters.

Khaddam: No Syrian Withdrawal Planned in Sep

NC2107082992 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 17 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has stated that the Syrian forces will not withdraw to al-Biqa' in September.

In an interview with the French-language newspaper L'ORIENT LE JOUR, excerpts of which were carried by AFP, Khaddam said: We will be here beyond September. He added: We say this to those who want to be certain.

Referring to al-Ta'if Accord, which calls for the Syrian Army's withdrawal to al-Biqa' valley, Khaddam said: The two-year period stipulated in the accord starts the day the political reforms are constitutionally adopted.

He added: Only a part of these reforms has been adopted. We must stick to the text, which does not mention September, October, June, or any other month. We are committed to the pledges we made when the national accord document was adopted. We fully and scrupulously adhere to these pledges without addition or subtraction.

Khaddam said the parliamentary elections that the Lebanese Government intends to hold this summer are a wise and sound step. We continue to support the Lebanese Government's measures aimed at holding elections soon.

On election opponents' fears that the Syrian Army's presence might influence voters, Khaddam said: Syria will not adopt a particular stand on the elections. We will not get involved in the election process.

He added: The party that is trying to create difficulties does not want the refugees to return to their homes. Nor does it want the national detente agreement to be implemented. It is dreaming of new circumstances from which there will be gains. We advise these people to give up the bets; they will achieve nothing positive.

Al-Asad Reassures al-Hirawi on Elections

NC1907111192 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Citing reliable sources, AL-DIYAR says that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has informed President Ilyas al-Hirawi that no one will interfere in the elections, and affirmed that no one will be allowed to undermine Syria's credibility in Lebanon.

Leaders Depart for al-Asad's Mother's Funeral

NC2107105192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rashid al- Sulh, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and a number of ministers and deputies left for Damascus at noon today to attend the funeral of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's mother in Qirdahah this afternoon.

Al-Hirawi Speaks on Support for Coexistence, Unity

NC1907161792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Address by President Ilyas al-Hirawi to a church congregation after attending mass in Zahlah on 19 July—recorded]

[Text] We must remember what things were like 17 years ago. I, the president, am one of the deprived. I reside in

a place that is unbecoming as the state's symbol. The real state residence is B'abda Palace, not the place where I sleep now. [applause]

There is no need to recall the tragedies of the past 16 years to know why there is no longer a palace called B'abda Palace. This is painful to me and to every Lebanese citizen.

In response to the talk about the deprivation that some Lebanese still suffer, I have taken it upon myself to declare that I am a man of peace, not a man of war. The course I follow is one of peace for the benefit of all Lebanon and for the sake of its unity. I am not one of those who believe in partitioning this country. I am one of those who believe in unifying it. Despite our diversity of sects, we all belong to the same soil. We are one nation, not an imported one. [applause]

I am doing my utmost to strengthen everyone, not to uphold one group against another. It is time that we claim our right, but what right? The right to return to past tragedies?

Venerable Father, beloved audience: A return to the past is painful. We know well what war has brought on our people. Displacement? What is the reason for displacement? Excuse me if I do not speak of the reason. Everyone knows. This city to which I proudly belong has suffered much, Father. Why? Returning to the past is painful and often leads to settling of accounts. Still my God has willed that I be born into a sect with a Gospel that advocates tolerance. Unless we, Maronites and other Christians, are the ones who begin by showing tolerance, we will not attain our rights. I am not proud to find my countrymen living in Canada, Australia, or other parts of the world. I want them here with us. I want them to seek to revive Lebanon. [passage indistinct]

In this sacred place of worship, I declare that harking back to the past is painful. I am publicly against everyone who does not want peace and believes in partitioning Lebanon. I am for a unified Lebanon. [applause]

I am of those who were deprived of their liberty in the days when it was said that we were independent. All the sons of this blessed parish know what deprivation I have experienced. For this reason, I am declaring that I will personally be a witness to liberty and democracy in this country, not a witness to forgery or scheming. [applause]

Lebanon is the producer of intellects and diverse cultures. Lebanon is history and civilization. Lebanon is the monastic orders. It is Bkirki [seat of the Maronite patriachate]. Lebanon is all of the sects who are our brothers. [applause]

Calls For Saving Homeland

NC2007202792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Dispatch from Zahlah]

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has announced: I am a decisive man. My decisions are firm. Anyone who becomes an obstacle to peace will be met by tragedies that will reach him repeatedly from us.

Speaking at the end of a banquet hosted in his honor by Public Works Minister Shawqi Fakhuri, President al-Hirawi called on all the Lebanese people to rally around the homeland to save it.

He said: After 17 years of tragedies and destruction, a man of peace had to come. They found me qualified and I agreed. I have chosen as my objective the unification of Lebanon and its institutions. Now after two years and seven months the Lebanese citizens are invited to assess our performance and compare our current situation with our former conditions. Concerning the talk we hear about past tragedies, let the speakers allow us to announce that we do not plan to reopen the dossiers of the past and the tragedies. I will permit no one to take us back to those mazes and tragedies. All loyal Lebanese must unite to save their country and be like their president, people of deliverance and love. Let everyone know: I am a decisive man. My decisions are firm. Anyone who becomes an obstacle to peace will be met by tragedies that will reach him repeatedly from us. For this reason, I ask everyone to rally around the homeland so that we can cooperate to save Lebanon from past tragedies. I ask them not to cast doubt on the Lebanese people's ability to bear the burdens of the past. We have begun the path of peace and will finish it. May God grant success to my people and the citizens of al-Biqa'. I hope that the other areas and all Lebanese people will be responsive to my wish to liberate our dear south from Israeli occupation. This is a national duty. We are all ready for that.

In answer to a question, President al-Hirawi said: I am not the only one who is decisive. The government, or rather Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh, is a decisive man when the need arises, although his name is al-Sulh [peace].

Following the banquet President al-Hirawi received in his home U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker who said his visit was to congratulate the president on St. Ilyas Day. Crocker declined to make any political comment.

Defense Minister Says Displaced Can Return Home

NC2007170392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said today that he can definitely state that displaced persons can start to return to their villages starting tomorrow. He added: The Army was deployed today and the displaced persons can return to their villages tomorrow and there are reconciliation committees in every village to effect the reconciliation. He stressed that the government is doing all it has to do. [passage omitted]

Army Seeks 'Additional Units,' Patrols Damascus Road

NC2007140692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The Lebanese Army has taken measures to reinforce its ranks with additional units in view of two considerations. One is that the deadline set by the cabinet for the voluntary surrender of personal weapons has expired. The other is the need to implement the security plan for the return of the refugees.

In this context, an Army mechanized unit began deployment on the Beirut-Damascus road today, particularly near 'Alayh, Bhamdun, 'Aytat, and Suq al-Gharb this morning. The Army is operating patrols and manning checkpoints in these areas to maintain law and order.

Al-Sulh, Hizballah Discuss Arms Collection

NC2007144592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] At 1030 today, Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh received a Hizballah delegation that included Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim and Political Bureau Chairman Haj Husayn Khalil.

After the meeting, Shaykh Qasim said: We reaffirmed our rejection of the peace negotiations. We discussed the internal situation and the parliamentary elections as well as the deprivation in some areas, especially the steadfast south. We called for measures to put an end to this deprivation.

Regarding the collection of weapons, Shaykh Qasim said: We emphasized the need to safeguard the resistance and its weapons. We are not opposed to sweeps against groups that disturb security. We will not, however, accept these sweeps violating the sanctity of homes. According to what we have heard, we do not think that this will happen.

We also raised the issue of the detainees held by the Israelis and agent Antoine Lahd. It is the state's duty to place great importance on this issue, whether in international quarters or at cabinet meetings. We also discussed the parliamentary elections and stressed the importance of holding them.

Al-Khatib Hails Hizballah Role in Elections

NC2007111192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib has welcomed Hizballah's decision to participate in the parliamentary elections. He emphasized that the government would like to see parliamentary life enriched by having all political parties participate in the elections.

Fadlallah Predicts Prosperous Future for Country

NC2007182792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah met press doyen Milhim Karam today. He called for inter-Lebanese dialogue on the elections because when people sit down and talk they will discover that many illusions disappear as soon as objective and serious discussions begin.

Concerning Lebanon's future, Fadlallah said: This country's future will be one of the major changes in the region. When the time comes for these changes to occur, the country will become more prosperous than it was before because Lebanon is an international necessity.

Phalangist Leader on Elections, al-Ta'if Accord

NC2107035492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Jul 92

[George Shahin dispatch from the Phalangist Party headquarters in Beirut]

[Text] The extended meeting held by the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau ended a few moments ago. The meeting began at 1800 today under the chairmanship of party leader Dr. George Sa'adah and was attended by his deputy Munir al-Haj and the party's new secretary general lawyer Karim Paqraduni. According to sources, the political bureau had a four-hour discussion of current political and security developments. The conferees pondered the reactions to the passage of the elections bill and economic and security conditions, specifically the measures pertaining to the first stage of the displaced citizens' return to their homes.

The political bureau decided to form liaison committees to contact all parties. These contacts will be based on a series of reports, submitted by Phalangist Party deputy leader Munir al-Haj; political bureau member Antoine Shadir; and Shaykh Amin al-Khazin, political bureau member and director general of the Voice of Lebanon radio, on the results of their recent intensive contacts. The political bureau decided to hold an extraordinary session at 1200 next Wednesday to continue discussing these issues in light of the new contacts.

Dr. George Sa'adah chaired an expanded meeting of the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau, Consultative Committee, and Central Council at 1700 today. The party leader said that the country is passing through a very critical and dangerous stage, similar to the previous historic and main stages of 1943 and 1960, because the salient issue today is connected with the fate of the national [al- Ta'if] accord document and whether it will be implemented or not. He noted that the implementation has come to be connected with the elections issue.

The Phalangist Party leader added: Any decision made at this stage will have both supporters and opponents, here and in other circles, and we of the Phalangist Party

have always been accustomed to adopting decisions that serve the national interest. For this reason we sometimes used to go along with popular sentiment and sometimes oppose it, particularly if it contravened the national interest.

Dr. Sa'adah continued: The Phalangist community, just like the rest of Lebanese public opinion, is worried and confused about all current issues. For this reason I am not sure whether reiterating our position on the elections bill or referring to the political bureau's decision is useful. Our position was declared by the party's parliamentary bloc in the Chamber of Deputies and in my memorandum to the Council of Ministers.

The Phalangist Party leader disclosed that he formerly informed the Council of Ministers of the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau's opposition to the elections bill. He added: I also told them that I reject the bill and adhere to the political bureau's decision. I told them if they wanted me to show solidarity with the rest of the government on this issue, I will resign from the government so as not to violate the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau's statute. For this reason I did not attend the Chamber of Deputies' session because if I had attended I would have sat with the Phalangist Party's parliamentary bloc.

The Phalangist leader added: In view of this serious situation, I need to assert that our decision was not arbitrary nor was it adopted to satisfy or appease any particular group or defy another. Our decision proceeded from our commitment to the desired national unity and to ensure sound implementation of the al-Ta'if Accord, particularly in connection with the number of Chamber of Deputies members, the division of constituencies, and other provisions of the accord that have been amended or circumvented.

Regarding the displaced citizens' issue, Dr. Sa'adah reemphasized the need to complete the process of their return to their homes and not to be satisfied with measures taken only at the beginning of this process. He said: It is important to ascertain that all the plans approved by the Council of Ministers regarding this issue are soundly implemented. We must demonstrate that this is so to reassure the returning citizens.

Sa'adah expressed astonishment at the suggestion that we should carry ballot boxes from one displaced citizens' assembly center to another. He stressed that this is impermissible and we cannot ask a displaced person to vote for those who displaced him or those who are incapable of ensuring his return to his home.

The Phalangist Party leader added: Now that the elections law has been passed by a majority vote, the elections issue has come to the fore along with the planned strike and demonstrations next Thursday. I hasten to add that the Phalangist Party has not yet adopted any stand on these issue. As party leader, I do not make the decisions. It is the political bureau that has the decisionmaking power. Despite this we are hearing various rumors and interpretations from various quarters. They say George Sa'adah wants this and wants that. I only answer by saying that George Sa'adah has no personal stand. His stand is that of the political bureau. He will adhere completely to that stand. Oneupmanship on this issue must stop.

The Phalangist Party leader concluded: We are continuing our contacts with local, regional, and international parties to explore the various aspects of the issue because the elections are not an internal affair as some claim. All these parties have a positive or negative influence on the elections. I believe we can well interpret these parties' stances.

Syrian Official's View Rejected

NC2007105092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Phalangist Party Leader Dr. George Sa'adah has reiterated his call for returning the refugees to their villages before the parliamentary elections. He asked: How can we ask refugees to vote in favor of those who caused their displacement? He said he was the first to oppose the election bill and that he prepared a written memorandum on the party's stand on this issue.

Dr. Sa'adah said he does not agree with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's interpretation of the al-Ta'if accord, adding that Khaddam's interpretation does not represent the truth. He explained that the deadline for the Syrian Army's redeployment in al-Biqa' expires on 20 September.

Strike To Protest Elections; Ja'ja on U.S. Role

NC2007073992 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] In the next few days, possibly at the cabinet meeting scheduled for Wednesday [22 July], the government is expected to set a date for the parliamentary elections. Despite criticism and opposition voiced at very high levels—and the government's repeated assurances that it will listen to all views—the government has shunned the views of its opponents.

Meanwhile, the opposition is seeking agreement on practical steps to assert its stand, including a call for a strike.

Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has said that the call for a strike to protest the elections will be issued within the coming few hours. The strike may take place on Thursday [23 July]. Ja'ja' said: Each party will issue its call separately. We do not have to agree on a date right now, Ja'ja' pointed out, but he expressed hope that such agreement would be possible.

Dr. Ja'ja' said the campaign against the elections is going strong, voicing hope that such elections will not take place, because there is no political justification for it. Even if such elections were to take place, he added, no

one would recognize it and we would end up with a Chamber of Deputies that lacked legitimacy and support.

In a telephone interview with the magazine AL-HAYAH, Dr. Ja'ja' described the U.S. position on the call to hold elections as neutral. The United States, he said, may decide to support the elections if Syria were to promise Washington that Hizballah's weapons will be collected as part of the pre-election collection of light weapons.

Asked if an alternative could be found for the al-Ta'if agreement if the latter were to be discredited, Ja'ja' said: There is no alternative so far. But what is happening is that they [not further identified] are emptying that agreement of its political content and slowly turning it into a mere scrap of paper. I think the domestic provisions of al-Ta'if are gradually being robbed of substance. I understand the existence of a political system that is not based on political principles and forces. [sentence as heard]

Liberal Party, 'Awn Backers Call 23 Jul Strike

NC2007172292 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The National Liberal Party has issued a statement calling for a strike. The statement says that the party has adopted the course of constructive opposition, whereas the government has adopted a policy of haughtiness and coercion and humiliating the people. The policy of coercion was shown in the disregard for parties and popular and spiritual leaders. Officials imposed the decision to hold the elections this summer.

The statement adds: The party, out of its concern for Lebanon's supreme interest and for safeguarding the coexistence formula, calls on its members, supporters, and the Lebanese people in general to reject the fait accompli the government is seeking to impose and perpetuate through what they call the elections. Let your rejection be manifested in a peaceful strike in all Lebanon for one day, on Thursday, 23 July, as a first warning step.

General Michel 'Awn's supporters also issued a statement calling for a strike. The statement says: The World Front for the Liberation of Lebanon [al-jabhah al-'alamiyah litahrir lubnan], sensing the danger of holding parliamentary elections under the existing circumstances, responding to the wish of the great majority of the Lebanese people to resist the attempt to impose a Chamber of Deputies whose features and members' names have become known through the already prepared lists, and underlining Gen. 'Awn's position rejecting the policy of imposing foreign will on the Lebanese people, calls on the Lebanese people in all areas to express their rejection of parliamentary elections through the declaration of a peaceful general strike on Thursday, 23 July.

'Awn on Election Boycott

NC2007095092 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 10 Jul 92 p 12

[Interview with General Michel 'Awn, former Lebanese Army commander and prime minister, by Charles Bakhus al-Fighali "four days ago" at 'Awn's residence in Marseille, France]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Fighali] Under what conditions would you support this summer's elections?

['Awn] There are four clear and unambiguous conditions. The land should be liberated from all foreign armies so that the citizens are free; only free citizens can hold free elections. The government running the elections should represent every political faction. Refugees and expatriates should be given the opportunity to vote. There should also be international supervision of the elections. [passage omitted]

[Al-Fijali] How do you view the U.S. position? How does this position affect the elections?

['Awn] The United States is opposed to the elections, or so I gather from reading between the lines of its diplomatic language. When the Americans go on about how the elections should be held in an atmosphere free from pressures, it means that they believe such an atmosphere does not exist. Otherwise, they would have voiced their unconditional support for the elections as a sign of the revival of democracy. Their reservations indicate that the circumstances are not right. When they say the elections are an internal Lebanese matter, they are correct. Elections are an internal matter. Still, if the Americans are not pleased with the elections, Lebanon will pay the price.

[Al-Fijali] How do you view the positions of France and the Vatican? How do these positions affect the prospects for holding elections?

['Awn] What is true for the Americans is true for France and the Vatican. Everyone believes that the time is not right. Everyone advises against holding the elections. It is as simple as that.

[Al-Fijali] Suppose that the United States, France, and the Vatican declared their support for the elections. Would you change your position?

['Awn] Of course not. I will not change my position; I believe the elections should be boycotted. I am Lebanese, and I have my own experience and nationalist principles. Things must change before elections can be held. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Security, Hostage Issue

NC1907153092 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 15 Jul 92 p 5

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AKHIR SA'AH, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz was reluctant

to say that the victory of Rabin and the Labor Party means that peace is near. He said: A Labor government does not ensure that peace will come faster. He noted that the Likud government was limited by a specific historical ideology and had difficulty dealing with peace because it could not break free from the past, adding: The current Israeli Government could be more open to peace, but the most important elements are how it will respond to the international community and how the United States will handle Israel and the issue of peace. If the United States approaches the peace process seriously and firmly, I believe that the Israeli Government will be more responsive.

Faris Buwayz stressed the need to implement Resolution 425 to give emphasis to the peace process. This resolution, he added, is an independent, clear-cut, and frank resolution that requires Israel's full and unconditional withdrawal from Lebanese territory. He described it as a clear resolution that is easy to implement.

Buwayz refused to link Hizballah's activity in the south with the continued Israeli occupation, saying: We have some reservations about Hizballah's policies. We cannot regard it as the cause of the occupation, however, because the Israeli occupation preceded Hizballah and its resistance operations. He added: It was the international community's failure that was the source of Lebanese frustration and justified the uprising in the south. Before the international community tries to calm things down by asking us to accept the fait accompli the Israelis have imposed, it should demand the implementation of Resolution 425. When we obtain a clear-cut and principled promise, the Lebanese state will do what it can to calm the situation in the south. For now, the state cannot ask any displaced citizen with land or a home in the occupied areas. [sentence incomplete as published] He noted that this has been mentioned to President Bush, the United States, and the entire international community.

Buwayz refused to link the security situation in Lebanon with the upcoming parliamentary elections, adding: There will not be a security flare-up, whether or not elections are held. The situation is Lebanon is stable and calm, he said, noting that security in Lebanon is similar to that in any other country. Elections, he added, are a political issue that all Lebanese back in principle. The dispute is over the date and timing of the elections and some other details that need to be worked out in advance, such as the return of displaced persons, the nature of the election law, the division of districts and governments, media organization, and so forth. He added: I sincerely believe that these are normal problems that exist in every country. I doubt that there is a country in the world that does not have a conflict of choices or a dispute over election laws regarding districts, governorates, and the number of candidates. I also believe that it is wrong to link the elections and the security situation.

Buwayz denied that Lebanon had intervened in the hostage issue in pursuit of a deal, saying: Lebanon was morally responsible for what happened on Lebanese territory, even if there was no state at the time.

Resistance Mounts Attacks; Israelis Respond

SLA Position Shelled

NC2107045692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Citing a security source, AFP reports that resistance men attacked a South Lebanese Army [SLA] post in Tayr Harfa last night. The source said the attackers used armor-piercing shells. Immediately afterward, Israeli artillery fired approximately 20 shells at areas north of the border strip. An Israeli gunboat fired flares.

Two Israeli helicopters flew at low altitude over the al-Habshah and al-Tuhrah hills and the eastern area of Kafr Rumman at 1900 yesterday. They conducted mock raids and released thermal balloons. Earlier, Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and nearby areas, drawing antiaircraft fire.

A security source said that an SLA position on a hill overlooking Bra'shit was hit by approximately 60 mortar shells. The SLA retaliated by shelling nearby areas.

Israelis Shell Southern Villages

NC2107054192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] The villages of Haddathah, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and Haris have been under Israeli shelling since 0500 today. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the central sector reports that the shelling is coming from the occupation forces' positions in the Haddathah and Rshaf hills.

At 0430 today, resistance fighters detonated an explosive device near a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol on the Haddathah-al-Tiri road, damaging a vehicle and killing or wounding its occupants.

'Fierce Clashes' Reported

NC2107054592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Our correspondent in the south has just reported that fierce clashes involving artillery and machine-guns are raging on the axis of Bayt Yahun, Saff al-Hawa, Bra'shit, Haddatha, and 'Ayta al-Jabal.

The Islamic Resistance has released a statement saying that its fighters attacked South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions in Bayt Yahun and Saff al-Hawa, destroying two tanks. Our correspondent reports that an explosive charge was detonated as an SLA patrol was passing through the same area at 0520 today.

'Daring Operation' Against Israelis

NC2107065792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] The Islamic Resistance carried out a daring operation against the Zionist forces in the Bayt Yahun-Saff al-Hawa area this morning, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

In a statement released on this operation, the Islamic Resistance said that its mujahidin launched an attack against the Zionist forces in the Bayt Yahun-Saff al-Hawa area at 0400 today. They carried out several assaults and ambushed the enemy, inflicting heavy casualties and destroying two tanks. The statement said that violent clashes are raging between the mujahidin and enemy forces on the Haddatha, Bayt Yahun, Bra'shit, and 'Ayta al-Jabal axis. The Zionist forces are in a state of confusion, the statement added.

At 0520, the enemy tried to bring in reinforcements, but our mujahidin detonated an explosive device at the approaches to Bayt Yahun as these forces arrived, inflicting more casualties.

'Explosive Device' Injures Israelis

NC2107083592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] According to an urgent report we have just received from security sources in the south, four Israeli soldiers were injured today when gunmen detonated an explosive device under a tank near Bayt Yahun.

Israeli Killed, Others Wounded

NC2107094692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] An Israeli soldier was killed and three others were wounded this morning in an attack claimed by the Islamic Resistance near Bayt Yahun. Islamic Resistance sources said the attack, which was followed by an Israeli artillery bombardment and machine-gun raking of several villages, wounded two members.

Navy Receives 3 Coast Guard Boats From Britain

NC2007111492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The Lebanese Navy yesterday received three coast guard boats out of five purchased from British authorities. The three boats, which were handed over at a British base in Cyprus, arrived at the Lebanese naval base in Juniyah under escort of the Lebanese Navy rescue boat al-Damur. The two remaining boats will be received later.

Syrian Forces Seize Drugs in Ba'labakk District

NC2007202392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The Syrian forces in Hawsh Bardah, in the Ba'labakk district, have stormed the house of Zaki Sharif and seized a quantity of narcotics estimated at 60 kg of hashish. The operation was led by Major Bassam Mustafa, officer in charge of the Syrian security apparatus in the Dayr al-Ahmar area.

Death of al-Asad's Mother Reported

JN2107083592 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Damascus, 21 July (SANA)—Mrs. Na'isah, mother of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, passed away this morning.

She will be buried after the afternoon prayers are performed in the al-Sayyidah Na'isah mosque in al-Qardahah this afternoon.

Interior Minister Cited on Seized Narcotics

JN1807174192 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 30 Jun 92 p 3

[Interview with Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah by Fadiyah Bukhari; date, place not given; all figures as published]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Bukhari] There has been a favorable reaction on the local, Arab, and international levels to the destruction of large amounts of narcotics. Have there been other hauls, and if so, what do you intend to do with them?

[Harbah] Drug seizures are continuing and will coninue until we are rid of this scourge. Following are figures for the amounts seized in 1991 and the first quarter of 1992:

1- 1991: 121,818, 616 tons of hashish; 78.475 kg of heroin; 4.65 kg of opium; 369,073 Captagon pills; and 21,751 Amphetamine pills.

2- The first quarter of 1992: 491,231 kg of hashish; 25,747 kg of heroin; 2,134 kg of cocaine; and 30 Captagon pills, and 1,301 Amphetamine pills.

Hauls are handed over to the Customs Directorate in the first instance, and then are destroyed in the presence of a special commission.

It should be pointed out that our forces in Lebanon have helped Lebanese authorities in the drug-combating effort. Consequently, over the past year 115 tonnes of hashish, 4 kg of heroin, 14 kg of cocaine, and three kg of opium were seized.

Early this year, 10 tonnes of hashish were destroyed in the presence of Cyprus-based anti-drug liaison officers from Europe and the United States in the attendance of foreign, Arab, and local journalists. [passage omitted]

Economic, Trade Pacts Concluded With Kuwait

JN2007132492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 July 92

[Excerpt] At the Foreign Ministry in Damascus today, Syria and Kuwait signed instruments of ratification of a commercial and economic cooperation agreement and a protocol establishing a Syrian trade center in Kuwait and a Kuwaiti trade center in Syria. The pacts were signed by Muhammad Munib al-Rifa'i, head of treaties and the Legal Department at the Syrian Foreign Ministry, and Kuwait's Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Hezb, Ettehad Factions Continue Kabul Fighting

BK2007145592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1442 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 20 (AFP)—Large numbers of non-Shiite families were fleeing western Kabul on Monday amid fighting between the Shiite faction Hezb-e-Wahdat and the Sunni faction Ettehad-e-Eslami, sources said.

Hindu and Sikh families were also quitting the area, a Wahdat stronghold where rockets and shells continued to burst down after a weekend in which some 60 people were killed in clashes with the rival Sunni faction.

The overall situation in the city, however, appeared relatively calm, with markets partially open and traffic picking up.

Frank Lador, local chief of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said ICRC hospitals in the Afghan capital had received a total of 400 wounded since Saturday, and that most had been admitted.

"We have an overall 250-bed capacity and had to accommodate in-patients in corridors and rooms meant for other purposes," he said.

While a multi-faction mediation commission was said to be working on restoring peace, no one had a clear explanation for the confusing situation.

Wahdat again blamed the Ettehad, but Interior Minister Ahmad Shah, when asked to comment, replied: "We should not engage in accusation."

Shah, who belongs to Ettehad, confirmed however that the fighting in the past two days had involved Wahdat and mojahedin from his faction.

He told AFP that political problems with Wahdat, which is demanding a share in power for the minority Hazara Shiite community, would be resolved in a week. The minister said every group had such elements who created trouble.

Wahdat and Ettehad, backed by Iran and Saudi Arabia respectively, have been at loggerheads in the past. Clashes between them here early last month left more than 100 people dead.

The factional flare-up has apparently clouded prospects of negotiations between Wahdat and the multi-party ruling coalition, observers said, and has also slowed a two-week operation launched jointly by the Defence and Interior Ministries to clear Kabul of armed groups.

"The cleanout can take place only after hostilities end," Mohammad Ali Mazari, a top Wahdat leader, said Monday. His faction controls government buildings in west and southwest Kabul, the area where Kabul University remains closed due to disturbed conditions.

"The divide between Hazaras and other ethnic groups seems to be widening at the social level," one observer said.

Hazara vendors have disappeared from the main food market and many running small businesses in different areas have closed their shops for fear of violence, while Pashtuns and Tajiks were staying away from Hazara-dominated localities, witnesses said.

Sources said kidnappings by rival groups had resumed, although a joint commission of various groups arranged last week the release of some 300 people imprisoned during the earlier clashes.

The interior minister said about 40 percent of the city had been cleared of unwanted armed groups, but he said he could not give a date for completion of the security sweep.

Rabbani Said Responsible for Renewed Clashes

LD2007054192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] In an interview with the Islamic Republic News Agency this afternoon, Mohammad Fayyaz, chairman of the Representative Council of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party, IUP] of Afghanistan abroad, describing the situation in Kabul as critical, said: Rabbani, the interim president of Afghanistan, has paved the way for clashes to flare up by ignoring the previous agreements reached between the IUP and Mojaddedi.

Fayyaz considered the attack by the forces of the Supervisory Council [Showra-ye Nazer] of the Jamiyat-e Eslami against the peace delegation of the IUP in Kabul, and also the actions taken by these forces to disarm the bodyguards of Khalili—one of the IUP's officials—when they were leaving the prime minister's offices, as the main reason for the start of the clashes. He said: Khalili had gone to the prime minister's offices at the invitation of the prime minister to talk with him. The offices were attacked by the forces of the Supervisory Council, and the forces of the IUP were forced to intervene.

Iranian Charge Meets Rabbani on Recent Fighting

LD2007214992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Our correspondent from Kabul reports that in this afternoon's meeting between Mr. Taherian, the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Kabul, with Mr. Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan, they discussed current issues in that country, notably the recent clashes in the city of Kabul and the artillery attack of the Islamic Union Party [Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami] led by Sayyaf against residential and commercial areas, hospitals and schools in that city which continued without interruption. At this

meeting, the Islamic Republic of Iran's charge d'affaires expressed regret and concern at the fratricide and bloodshed in Kabul, and asked Mr. Rabbani to put all his efforts into ending these clashes and to assist with the injured and casualties.

Mr. Borhannodin Rabbani, too, thanked the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Kabul for their sympathy and for helping the injured, and he hoped that these hostilities will end as soon as possible.

Kabul Security Chief Resigns 20 Jul

LD2007195992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] News from Kabul states that Mr. Abdul Haqq, a leader of Kabul city's security forces, resigned from his post today. A responsible official in Kabul city's security organization [sazman-e entezami] announced this and said: Mr. Abdul Haqq resigned because he cannot continue his work under the present circumstances.

Abdul Haqq, who is also one of the military commanders of the Hezb-e Eslami of Yunos Khales, declared when stepping down that the Islamic Government of Afghanistan is the cause of the current state of affairs and the reason for his resignation.

This comes at a time when the hospitals and health centers in Kabul city, especially the Red Crescent, the Red Cross, and hospitals that are caught in the fighting, are packed with the injured and wounded of these past few days' fighting from attacks by Sayyaf's forces against residential areas. The increasing number of the wounded and the shortage of surgical instruments, medicine, and surgeons in hospitals which have come under artillery barrages and mortar fire by the Ettehad-e Eslami forces led by Sayyaf create an unbearingly disturbing and painful picture.

High-Level Officials Discuss Kabul Security

Premier, Wahdat Official Meet

LD1707153592 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Esteemed Ustad 'Abdul Sabor Farid, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, yesterday afternoon at the Golkhana Palace met with esteemed Abdol Karim Khayri, a member of the leadership delegation of the Wahdat Party of Islamic Afghanistan.

At this meeting they spoke about the security situation in the city of Kabul and they voiced their readiness to work harder so that peace and security will be restored as soon as possible in the atmosphere of understanding and cooperation.

Premier, Defense Minister Meet

LD1707215392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Esteemed Ostad 'Abdol Sabur Farid, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this afternoon with Esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, defense minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, at the prime minister's Office in Golkhana Palace.

Habibur Rahman Qarib, head of the Prime Minister's Press Office said to a correspondent of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that during the meeting the esteemed prime minister and esteemed defense minister discussed the expansion, (?development), and consolidation of security in Kabul city and a number of topics of mutual interest and [word indistinct] in Kabul city.

Warning of Communists Still In Kabul

LD2007181192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As a result of the 14-year long jihad in Afghanistan the forces of blasphemy were defeated and the mojahedin victoriously entered Kabul on 5 Sowr [25 April]. [passage omitted]

As the transitional term of Mojaddedi elapsed Ostad Rabbani's term of office began. It was expected that Ostad Rabbani would be able to restore security at least in Kabul city. However this did not happen; but insecurity in the city and disorder in the country were further increased in such a way that separate governments [words indistinct] were set up in each province. [Words indistinct] each province independently established ties with foreign countries and concluded separate agreements. [words indistinct] The very commanders of the Jami'yat-e Eslami concluded separate contracts; and without the instruction of the central government have established independent ties. Not the slightest reaction, unfortunately, was shown against such actions by the [word indistinct] Islamic state; and implied that all these actions have taken place with the consent and consultation with the Islamic state.

Ostad Rabbani, like Mojaddedi, satisfies himself only with seeing and meeting the people. More than this he has not done anything else for the country's interests. The situation in the country develops to the direction from where the destruction and [word indistinct] of our proud country and heroic people can be seen from far away. The independent contracts concluded between Tajikistan and Badakhshan Province and between Iran and Herat Province are witness to this fact that Ostad Rabbani has no (?control) even over his own commanders. [Words indistinct] the truth is that governing requires power, authority, and action. [Words indistinct] The present Islamic state neither has power or authority

nor the ability of action. Because power and authority, as a matter of fact, are in the hand of the communist partners. This is Karmal, not Ostad Rabbani, who in collaboration with his criminal henchmen, behind the cover, moves on the wheel of the government. The power and authority of Ostad Rabbani, like Mojaddedi, is restricted to the limits of the same palace. Beyond this all power is in the hand of communists. Those who still shed the blood of countless persecuted compatriots and destroy their houses. The communists, under the cover of the Islamic state, are trying to secure their future life.

Under the cover of Islamic government they confront their real enemies, the mojahedin, with various suffering and [word indistinct]. The criminal communists of the previous regime try to broaden and intensify differences among mojahedin to defame the mojahedin and prepare the ground for their microbic activities; and to create a situation that leads to the creation of the mirage of the coalitionists' dominance and rule. But we can clearly say that it is a dream and imagination. Our faithful and mojahed nation will not allow anyone to play with its fate and hijack the aims and results of their succesful jehad. The natural end of communists is decimation and death. No matter how much they try and apply their Satanic acts, the result will be failure and disappointment. The future belongs to Muslims and the Muslim people of this country will not spare any sacrifice to establish a real Islamic government.

Blamed for Insecurity

LD1707223492 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. After the end of Mojaddedi's transitional government our persecuted nation had been expecting Rabbani's term of office to be a period of calm and security and we expected the government in Kabul to restore security at least in Kabul city, because the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nezar] was an important part of this formation and an active force in the recent coalition. Therefore the people thought that the situation would improve and security would be restored after Rabbani took over. The people's expectation, however, had no base or reason because the communists were in no way ready to allow the government under the name of the mojahedin to receive the honor of restoring security in the country and in particular in Kabul. Because of this reason Rabbani's term of office was and is full of tension with insecurity and chaos more than Mojaddedi's term of office.

At the very moment there is no security in Kabul, not even in one street in this city. There are various forces stationed in every street and in every building, and each one of them are different forms of governments; such governments and powers whose sole work and activities are the seizure, shooting, annoyance and intimidation of the people. These uninvited forces have taken peace away from the city of Kabul and have turned Kabul into an (?exceptional frightening city). They prevent the mojahedin and other people who have sacrificed their life and wealth for 14 years to set up an Islamic government, from entering or walking around the city. They trigger clashes every day in every corner of the city as a result of which hundreds of our innocent and persecuted Muslim compatriots are being martyred. This is the situation in Kabul under the name of an Islamic state [words indistinct].

Now the question arises who is behind all these miseries and how come the Islamic government cannot, under the leadership of Rabbani, prevent all these unrestrained actions, disorder, murder, and plunder. The true fact is that the government's real power is still in the hand of communists—partner to the coalition—under the leadership of Karmal. These are the very personalities and forces in the coalition who want to defame in this way the name of the mojahedin and make the people disgusted. Thus they are preparing the ground to openly take the whole government power in their own hands after a while. [passage indistinct]

Pro-Iran Shiite Party Joins Governing Council

BK1807002492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1718 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 17 (AFP)—The Shiite mojahedin faction representing the minority Hazara community in Afghanistan has joined the governing leadership council, the country's interim premier 'Abdol Sabur Farid said here Friday.

The thorny issue of allocating seats to the Iranian-backed Hezb-e-Wahdat faction in the cabinet would be decided by the leadership council headed by interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Farid said.

Wahdat was given three cabinet slots by former interim president Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, but they were prevented by some Sunni groups from assuming the control.

The faction has been involved in confrontation with the government and has resisted the entry of security forces in a southwestern district controlled by its armed volunteers.

Many casualties have occurred during recent clashes in the Karta-i-Se District that includes Kabul University, which remains closed due to the tense situation.

Farid, speaking at a press conference at the secretariat, said negotiations were under way with representatives of Wahdat.

"We have talked with Wahdat representatives after they recently joined the leadership council," Farid said. "We have agreed with each other that the decision of leadership council will be implemented."

The prime minister said an interim constitution for the four-month tenure of the existing setup was being drafted.

He said a permanent constitution would be framed afterwards, stressing that holding of elections "is a principle accepted by all parties."

Elections, he said, would be organized under a permanent constitution at an "appropriate time."

Responding to a question about voting rights for Afghan women, Farid said "we have basis for such right to women in Islam."

However, he added, the mode of exercising such a right would be determined in keeping with Afghan conditions and traditions.

He said all ruling coalition parties had agreed on the removal of unwanted armed groups, including Uzbek militias under General Abdol Rashid Dostam, from Kabul.

"We hope the agreement will be implemented soon," Farid said.

Hezb chief Golboddin Hekmatyar has made the withdrawal of militias and other such groups a condition for his entry into Kabul.

Hekmatyar, now based at Charasiab, 15 kilometers south of Kabul, has not so far personally attended a leadership council in the city.

Prime Minister Farid Receives Tajik Delegation

LD1707214192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] A correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports from the prime minister's office of the Islamic State of Afghanistan that, yesterday afternoon, mutual talks were held between leaders of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] and the Government of Tajikistan at the Prime Ministry. At these talks, which lasted for one and a half hours, discussions were held about mutual cooperation in various fields between the two sides. They emphasized further strengthening of relations.

In conclusion the prime minister of the ISA, mojahed brother Ostad Farid, gave one carpet prayer mat to the Tajik delegation.

Our correspondent adds that the Tajik delegation left for home yesterday afternoon. The delegation was seen off at Kabul International Airport by the prime minister of the ISA, brother Ostad Farid, as well as the acting minister of foreign affairs, and some officials of foreign embassies.

Bangladesh

Burmese Troops Deployed To Halt Refugees

BK2107081692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0807 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, July 21 (AFP)—A senior Bangladeshi security officer said here Tuesday that Burma had deployed troops on its border to stop Moslem refugees crossing into Bangladesh.

"Following international pressure, the Myanmar (Burma) Government has deployed troops on our common border to stop the influx of the Rohingyas into Bangladesh," the officer told AFP, adding, however, that there was no cause to worry about a war between the two countries.

Last Thursday, reliable sources in Dhaka had reported a buildup of Burmese troops, although the Foreign Ministry had said it was not aware of it. Local officials said the buildup was along Bangladesh's southeastern Bandarban District border.

Border talks between the two countries are due to be held Thursday in Burma's Maungdaw Township, which officials here said were important in starting repatriation of the refugees who have fled Burma's Arakan state alleging widespread atrocities by Burmese troops. Rangoon's military junta has denied the allegations.

Some 270,000 Rohingyas, mostly housed in 15 camps in Bangladesh frontier Cox's Bazar District, have refused to return to their homes in Burma's Arakan state without guarantees of safety. They have been demonstrating against repatriation plans since Dhaka and Rangoon signed an agreement in April.

A buildup of Burmese troops on the border had been reported in December shortly after a border skirmish between the two sides. Bangladeshi military officials then also rejected any possibility of a war with Burma.

The security officer said Rangoon had also set up check posts along its border with Bangladesh.

House Briefed on Rohingyas, CIS Republics

BK2007162492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury has said the situation in Rohingya refugee camps is under the full control of the government. He said Bangladesh hopes that the refugees will soon go back home under the Bangladesh-Myanmar [Burma] repatriation agreement. The home minister was replying to a question during question time in Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] this morning. He said since the signing of the agreement, another 41,000 Rohingya refugees have crossed into Bangladesh.

The home minister informed the house that the crime rate has been showing a downward trend following

various steps taken by the government. He said that the process has been set on to withdraw all politically-motivated cases filed during the autocratic regime.

Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman informed the house that Bangladesh has made arrangements to establish diplomatic relations with all the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union. The agreements on diplomatic ties with seven republics—Ukraine, Byelarus, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan—were signed during visit of the state minister for textiles to these republics earlier this year; while the Bangladeshi ambassador in Moscow has been authorized to conclude similar agreements with other seven republics—Uzbekistan, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, Estonia and Latvia. A fresh agreement was not considered necessary with the Russian Federation which has succeeded the former Soviet Union. The foreign minister further informed the house that 34 Bangladeshi fishermen released from Indian jails through diplomatic efforts returned home early this month.

Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan told the house the number of unemployed in the country is presently over one crore 12 lakh. Of them, only 39 lakh are educated and 73 lakh 30,000 uneducated. He further said the government has been giving emphasis on solving the unemployment problem through productive planning.

Two Senior Army Officers Ordered To Retire

BK2107061292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0601 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Dhaka, July 21 (AFP)—The Bangladesh Government has ordered two senior army officers to retire from their official posts, THE MORNING SUN newspaper reported here Tuesday.

The order for the retirement of Brigadier Sharifuddin, defence adviser in Bangladesh's Washington mission, and Colonel Delwar Hossain was approved Saturday, the newspaper said without giving its source or the reason for the move. Defence Ministry officials could not be reached Tuesday for comment.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who heads the Defence Ministry, in June forced seven Army generals to retire. Three of them—who are Bangladesh's ambassadors to Germany, Turkey and Malaysia—have been recalled, according to Foreign Ministry sources.

The Defence Ministry described the earlier sackings as a step by Zia to get rid of anyone thought to be close to Bangladesh's deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad, in order to strengthen her hold on power and streamline the Armed Forces.

The military ruled Bangladesh directly or indirectly for 15 years after its independence in 1971.

India

Janata Dal Ousts MPs for 'Anti-Party Activities'

BK2007160392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The Janata Dal has expelled five members of parliament from the primary membership of the party for six years for anti-party activities. They are Chimanbhai Mehta, a Rajya Sabha MP; and Mr. Rajnath Shanker Shastri, Mr. Ram Avadh, Mr. Shivsharan Verma, and Mr. (Ramnivas Rai)—all members of the Lok Sabha. This was announced by the party president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, in New Delhi today.

Stalemate Continues Over Temple-Mosque Crisis

BK2007130292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The Congress-I says it does not favor the takeover of the disputed [temple-mosque] land in Ayodhya by the center. Replying to queries by newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. Chandulal Chadrarkar, said there is no such proposal before the party as of now. He refuted the criticism by Left parties that the Congress-I and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] are in league over the issue.

The Communist Party of India-Marxist says it will support any step including the invocation of Article 356 [dismissal of state government] by the center on the the Ayodhya issue. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi this evening, the party general secretary, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjit, charged the government with inaction in getting the court orders implemented.

The home minister says the center is keeping itself ready for any contingency plan to meet the situation that may arise following the developments in Ayodhya. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha this afternoon, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said the situation is deteriorating day by day because of continued violation of the court orders. He said despite the orders of the Allahabad High Court and the Supreme Court, the construction of the platform is still going on. Making a similar statement in the Rajya Sabha earlier, Mr. Chavan said that the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, has told him that he is making efforts to carry out the court orders, though it is becoming difficult for him to enforce some.

Earlier, both houses witnessed noisy scenes over the ongoing construction work at Ayodhya. The Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, announced in the Lok Sabha that the members of the National Front and the Left parties are boycotting the proceedings today in protest against what he called the continued inaction of the center to stop the illegal construction at Ayodhya. In the Rajya Sabha, non-BJP opposition members walked out in protest against what they called the unsatisfactory reply by the home minister on the Ayodhya issue. Some BJP members in the Lok Sabha charged other parties with

instigating violence in Kerala and Maharashtra and demanded a probe into the matter. There were exchanges between BJP members and those belonging to other parties.

Army Wants To Withdraw From Punjab

BK2007041992 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Jul 92 pp 1,9

[By Pravin Sawhney]

[Text] While Chief Minister Beant Singh has argued for an increased role for the army in Punjab, in cooperation with the police and paramilitary forces, the army top brass is both against any further stay and its new role since the installation of popular Government in the State.

The new role for the army is to combat terrorism in urban areas, as the pre-election assigned task of checking border infilitration and militancy in the rural belt and border districts of Amrisar, Gurdaspur, Faridkot and Ferozepur is well under control.

The army's aversion to further presence in Punjab is because commanders are finding it increasingly difficult to explain the new "mission-less task" to their troops in terms of the "enemy," rules of engagement and results obtained.

This has already resulted in more than routine cases of indiscipline like over-staying leave, desertions and feigning ailment by troops.

Such manifest instances, coupled with systematic marginalisation of commanders by both politicians and bureaucracy, may have a detrimental cascading effect on the army in the long run, according to discerning commanders.

In both Rakshak-I and II there was a military job, which no longer exists. These operations were launched to facilitate elections in the State. Of the nearly 1,200,000 troops deployed during Rakshak-II in November 1991, the bulk were under 11 corps headquarters in Jalandhar, tasked to check border infiltration and contain militancy in the rural belt and border district.

Only a portion of the 10 corps at Bhatinda and one corps (moved in from outside Punjab) at Patiala were to assist the police and para military forces in combating terrorism in the remaining districts of the State.

Combating "militancy" and "insurgency" is a military job, whereas nowhere in the world has a regular army been employed to fight "terrorism." Militancy implies creating fiefdoms, usually in border rural areas where little administration exists.

Militants kill discriminately to create personal strongholds through fear of reprisal and are not faceless like the terrorists. Therefore, by combating militancy, the army alleviated the fear psychosis and assisted in the re-establishment of the defunct administration.

On the other hand, terrorism involves indiscriminate killings directed against the state might itself. The probable targets are hapless innocents in congested urban areas.

These faceless state enemies, who plant bombs or simply unleash sophisticated weapons and disappear, cannot be tackled by the army, which requires an identifiable enemy.

To combat terrorism, special forces are required that can work in close coordination with domestic forces and intelligence agencies.

With militancy now under check and a popular government installed, the army has been redeployed largely to combat terrorism along with nearly 1,000,000 police, paramilitary and Home Guards in the State.

For instance, the 11 corps have now been fanned into Sangrur, Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur and Roopnagar districts, in addition to their task of checking border infiltration.

II corps has replaced I corps, with the overall army strength in Punjab being almost same since pre-election time. This no-win war against terrorism has put the army in a precarious bind on at least four counts.

There have been numerous instances when, even on hard actionable intelligence, the army has missed opportunities to take on hardcore elements as it waited for the mandatory paraphenalia of women constables, police representatives and even magistrates to join the cordon and search operation.

Second, there is the problem of indentification of the terrorist itself, which can be highly counter-productive. Although the army has operated till now with utmost restraint, excess cannot be ruled out, especially during emotive moments when provocative firing claims casualities in their ranks.

This would refresh ugly momories of Operation Woodrose, conducted in the wake of Bluestar in 1984. This would be doubly disastrous for the country, given the fact that Punjab is a vital strategic ground in any future war with Pakistan and has to be defended at all costs.

Third, soldiers are ill-trained to fight an elusive enemy indefinitely. Since the infamous IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] operations, where the army first faced the dilemma of enemy identification, it has seen five years of constant war against a faceless enemy. Nearly all infantry battalions have been through Assam and other areas of the North-east, Kashmir and Punjab—all low-intensity war zones.

"While the army does not mind fighting at Siachen and along the Line of Control, it is under enormous pressure against terrorism," observed a senior commander.

And, most importantly, prolonged deployments in aid to civil power have unwittingly thrown troops into parochial politics.

For instance, the little known fact about the recent Punjab elections is that, in rural areas, the army ran the entire show—from preparing candidates' election canvassing schedules to providing protection to polling officers and even reassuring police and paramilitary forces.

While this role is undesirable in any case for the army, in the long run it is bound to demystify its awe amongst the terrorists.

The immediate fall-out of these prolonged deployments is that the army's turn-over schedules between peace and field areas have blurred to the point of there being no peace areas left.

Even the total of a less-than-one-year's stay a jawan got with his family during his entire 15-year service period has been reduced. The morale of troops has been further affected by the public running down of their commanders.

It was an understanding between the army and the central leadership that after the installation of a popular government in Punjab, the army's phased withdrawal would commence.

This is what troops were told by their commanders. And this is what Lt Gen B.K.N. Chibber, GOC [General Officer Commanding] II corps, recently told the press, when he was instantly run down both by Chief Minister Beant Singh and his police chief.

While it is improbable that the General spoke his own, the CM's [Chief Minister's] retort that the army would stay as long as required is meaningless as only the Central government can decide the army's movements.

Besides, with this remark, the Chief Minister punctured his own claim of improved law and order situation in the State.

Also manifest is the existing dissonance between the Home and Defence ministries over the army's role in Punjab. Yet, irreparable damange has been done by Beant Singh's public pronouncement, as many junior commanders located in Punjab told this correspondent it did not go down well with the troops.

Especially since this was the second instance when a senior officer was run down in public fora. The first being the furore in Parliament and media over Gen Rodrigues' remark that good governance was the army's business as well.

And nowhere are the army chief's remarks more apt than in Punjab, where the army's presence facilitates state business. This, of course, is at a huge cost of its training, morale and equipment maintenance, which has now been placed on dire premium.

New Tank Has Major Technical Problems

BK2107031592 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 13 Jul 92 pp 1, 7

[Text] New Delhi—The recently concluded summer trials on the main battle tank, Arjun, have confirmed that the tank has major technical problems, is nowhere near troop trials and needs to undertake further technical trials in 1993 summer. Only after the troops trials are successful, can production of the tank commence, according to top sources.

The production schedule of Arjun for 1993, announced by the Defence Minister, Mr Sharad Pawar in Parliament during the last session, therefore, is unrealistic and is based on the unrealistic optimism of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

While problems connected with tank's Hydropneumatic Suspension Unit (HSU), bogey wheels and excessive track-sheddings of DIEHL [expansion unknown] tracks have been overcome, three major problems remain unresolved. These are excessive loss of engine power due to overheating, optronics and the weight of the tank itself. Simply put, transportation of the tank to operational areas from within the country, firing accuracy and assured reliable movement in the battle-field are suspect.

Imported cooling system from MTU [expansion Unknown] Germany was provided to Arjun's 1,400 HP MTU engine, to overcome the problem of engine losing powr due to overheating (engine derating phenomenon). While earlier Arjun, at best could achieve a speed of 20 km per hour, with this new contraption it achieved 40 km per hour, before packing-up after about 400 km. This is unacceptable, and the trials team maintained that the DRDO has been unable to optimise the cooling modification fitments.

It is only after further technical trials with the cooling modificaiton are found satisfactory, can efforts be made for either technology transfer and indigenisation of this important cooling system assembly, according to top sources.

The problem with static firing of special armour-piercing-fin-stabilising-discarding-sabot (APFSDS) ammunition at mean fighting range of 1,500 meters was that it was found erratic even after two to three rounds. With the ambience temperature of 46 degree centigrade 52 degrees, the imported optical-electronics (optronics) designed to operate in much less temperatures, simply gave way, setting the fire and gun control systems in disarray. Sources are tight-lipped about APFSDS ammunition kill and penetration probabilities and firing results of the Arjun on the move.

The trials team has recommended that the DRDO establish the tolerant temperatures for optronics housed in the tank turret and then provide necessary cooling arrangements. These will obviously be at the cost of space available to the crew within the tank and is likely to add to the weight of Arjun, which is already unwieldy.

At 59.2 tonnes, Arjun far exceeds the 52 tonnes as specified in the General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQR). GSQR are parameters for a project based upon the operational requirement of the combat user and, therefore, cannot be altered by the DRDO without sanction from the general staff. Already four GSQR modifications for weight and measures have been done. With the existing weight, Arjun cannot be transported during night. This means that both strategic movements of Arjun within the country and operational movements in the combat zone will be a perpetual problem. Moreover, the assault bridges with the army cannot take on more than 60 tonnes weight, whereas Arjun would require class 70 assault bridges. It is also likely that now in minor canal crossings with Arjun, army may need to commit its heavy assault bridges. It is evident that regarding weight of Arjun, the DRDO and general staff have been influenced by the doctrinal extreme forward defensive posture, where protection is given primacy over mobility. The Kanchan composite armour used in Arjun is extremely heavy and is designed to defeat high-explosive anti-tank and kinetic energy attacks. This doctrinal posture is predicated on the experience of the 1965 and 1971 wars, where only heavy 50 tonnes centurian tanks did well in offensive and defensive operations.

While major problems remain in Arjun, it is encouraging that extensive technical trials have been done. Especially, given the fact that the tank has over 50 percent imported components, which need to be tested in subcontinental conditions. With such dependence on imported assemblies, it will need to be ensured that a regular supply of these spares is made available. The ideal, considering that indigenous defence infrastructure is meagre, for the DRDO would have been to go in for technical collaboration from abroad instead of an ab-inito design, which has already cost over Rs 230 crore, with the final product far away, observed a senior officer.

Afghan Official Comments on Bilateral Ties

BK2107094892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] The charge d'affaires of Afghanistan, Mr. (Seyeed Sadi Naderi), in New Delhi has said that the traditional India-Afghan relations are not affected by the change of governments in his country. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi today, Mr. (Naderi) said the present Afghan Government has decided to revive the former police and army to pave the ground for the withdrawal of jihadi forces from the capital. He said complete normalcy in the Kabul city will be restored in about five weeks from now. He said his country is keen to draw India's assistance in building up the economic infrastructure of Afghanistan.

Samsung To Invest in Telecom Sector

BK2107062592 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 21 Jul 92 p 20

[Text] New Delhi, July 11—Samsung Company of Korea has selected India for its major overseas investment and technology transfer plans in the wake of liberalised economic policies of the Indian Government. The company envisages a large investment in the field of telecommunications, with special emphasis on radio paging services for Indian cities.

Making announcements to this effect, Mr. Chang Bae Kim, general manager of Samsung Electronics' Communication Systems Division (information systems business) stated that the Korean company has signed a collaboration agreement with the Indian telecom company, Eider Electronics Industries Ltd. These two companies along with Star Trading of Hong Kong have formed a consortium for radio paging technology and providing radio paging services in India. This consortium is bidding for the radio paging tender announced by the Department of Telecommunications [DOT], of the Government.

Mr. Sanjay Sinjay Sinha, executive director of Eider, who was also present at the press conference said that his company was the only indigenous manufacturer and pioneer of radio paging systems in the country which have several other foreign collaborations for transmitters, transceivers, radio pagers, and for operating the city-wide radio paging networks.

No firm decision has been made on the amount and extent of equity participation by the foreign partners in the company in case the consortium got the contract on radio paging. But, according to the DOT requirements, which stipulates that the contract be awarded only to an Indian company, Mr. Sinha said that the equity of foreign collaborators would be anywhere between 20 per cent and 25 per cent each. He was confident that out of the tender for 27 cities, the company would get a contract for at least 25 per cent of the total job.

Mr. D. Y. Moon, chief of the Samsung Group in India, said that the collaboration with Eider has been a major breakthrough for Samsung's investment plans and to introduce sophisticated radio paging technology and services for Indian cities.

Samsung is one of the top 13 Fortune-500 companies in the world with a group turnover of US $42 billion. The company launched itself in India about 12 years ago and at present has a network in Bombay and Delhi. Now it has plans to expand its network to Madras and Calcutta.

The company started in India with the import into the country of goods manufactured by it from Korea. Of late, having understood the potential of Indian natural resources, the company is also engaged in exporting raw material from the country to Korea. The items included in its exports are naphtha and aluminium etc.

Now the company is also assessing a plan to use its 75 overseas network to export Indian natural resources and also ready to introduce certain sophisticated Indian technology in Korea.

The collaboration with Eider is an exclusive one and no other Indian company would be getting the same technology on the same items from Samsung.

The Korean company's product range includes aircraft and shipbuilding, telecommunications, electronics, chemicals, energy, textiles, and general merchandising.

Iran

Atomic Energy Official on Recent Israeli 'Threats'

LD2007182892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Following recent threats by a Zionist regime official about military attacks against Iran's nuclear installations, the deputy president for atomic energy and the president of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization [Dr. Reza Amrollahi] was interviewed by our correspondent. He said that those accusations show the ominous goals of the usurper Zionist regime aimed at creating agitation in the minds of the international community and endangering peace in the Middle East.

He added that the peaceful intentions of the Islamic Republic of Iran's government were endorsed by the International Atomic Energy Agency during its close inspection of our country's atomic installations. It was proved that the rumors circulating are completely groundless.

The head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization stressed that the time has come for the international community to stand against the government which is not a member of the UN treaty on the non- proliferation of nuclear weapons and which intends to threaten the peace and security of the region and the world by its ambitious nuclear and military policies.

He added: We have reported the threats of the usurper Israel to the International Atomic Energy Agency and all its members.

Newspaper Comments on Policy Toward UK

PM2007141692 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 8 Jul 92 p 8

[Unattributed editorial: "What Has Happened to Us?"]

[Text] Perhaps the most bitter memories of our country and the Islamic world in the past 100 years, have been due to the various actions and plots hatched by Britain. We have suffered irreparable damage and blows as a result of such actions. Yet despite this, it is not clear why we do not adopt policies that are worthy of government officials in this country.

We have recently heard in the news that the British Foreign Office canceled a trip to Iran by David Gore-Booth, the deputy head of the Middle Eastern department in that ministry, only one day before the trip was to have taken place. It was also mentioned that this was a return trip, following one made in April by Hamid Asefi, the head of the European and American desk at the Iranian Foreign Ministry. Of course this is not the first time that officials at the Iranian Foreign Ministry have taken the initiative in expanding ties with the British. Prior to this, there were other cases where, because of various events such as unsuitable weather conditions in Spain, the airplanes carrying Iranian officials had to make a forced landing at London's Heathrow airport and of course there were unavoidable meetings with British officials there. These generous initiatives have been enhanced by warm comments from some ambassadors with regard to the need to strengthen our relations with others, not only because of matters of mutual interest, but also because of exaggerated common aspects in our cultures, in such a way that in one case the relations were described as being two wings of the same bird. It seems logical therefore, that the British would feel they are able to behave like a superpower in front of us. In keeping with this, they decided to send a deputy head of a section in reply to a trip made by the Iranian official who is the head of a section. They were not even happy with that arrangement and decided not to reciprocate at all. The spokesman for the British Foreign Office said that the trip was canceled for many reasons, including the UK presidency of the EEC! But the INDEPENDENT newspaper in its usual style quoted an unnamed British diplomat and mentioned the reason why that country's Foreign Office had canceled David Gore-Booth's trip. It said that "Iran's actions in various spheres have not been satisfactory. This diplomat mentioned several issues including the prevention of third country nationals from gaining access to Abu Musa Island—which is under joint supervision by Iran and the United Arab Emirates—as the well as the executions in Mashhad following recent events in that town and the involvement of a group linked to Iran with a bomb explosion at the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires. But it seems that he did not mention the real reason and has left the rest up to the immagination of officials in the Iranian Foreign Ministry. It is true however that the British government radio [as published] quoted Douglas Hurd mentioning the real reason which is said to be the "lifting of the Imam's death sentence on Salman Rushdie." This has been mentioned as one of the biggest obstacles in the way of relations between the two countries.

It is worth mentioning that a few days before the trip to Iran by David Gore-Booth, Salman Rushdie appeared at the UK parliament, 40 months after the decree issued by the Imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—where he met and held discussions with parliamentarians from all parties. In a press interview he announced that while the UK government was his biggest supporter, he reaffirmed that the Foreign Office had assured him that it had made the necessity of lifting the imam's

decree—may his passage to paradise be expedited—an issue in relations between the two countries.

Keeping in mind the previous positions taken by the British, as well as the recent act of that country's parliament in accepting Rushdie, it would have been better if our country's Foreign Ministry had protested this action by canceling the trip to Iran by the deputy head of the Middle Eastern department of the Foreign Office. The international actions of that country including the steadfast UK support for crimes committed by the Zionist regime, the inhuman actions of the racist regime in South Africa, the merciless crushing of the Irish people's resistance, as well as dozens of other cases, are all elements that prevent and cast serious doubt on closer ties with that country. Unfortunately the lack of a timely reaction by our own Foreign Ministry has caused the British to bring up issues such as the situation of Abu Musa island, which is something completely regional, creating an atmosphere over the events in Mashhad and the explosion of a bomb in the Israeli embassy. The British have now placed themselves in a position of decision-maker and organizer when it comes to the ties between the two countries. Fortunately Iran is now in a position whereby it does not need relations with the British. They have, as far as we are concerned, placed huge obstacles in the path of further ties between the two countries, by undertaking inhuman actions. Iran must ask for such barriers to be removed before increasing the level of its ties with Britain. Without a doubt if the officials at our country's Foreign Ministry go forth with more courage with regard to our relations with the British, since the British think it is necessary to have relations with Iran, they will be more careful and cautious.

Turkey Asked To Present Evidence on PKK Camps

NC2007164092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1530 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary: "Ambassador Baqeri's News Conference"]

[Text] Iranian Ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Reza Baqeri held a news conference yesterday on the reports published in Turkish newspapers claiming that Iran is sheltering Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] militants in Maku and Orumiyeh. Amb. Baqeri recalled that Iran has asked Turkish officials many times to inform Tehran whenever they receive information about camps the PKK has allegedly established in Iran. Amb. Baqeri said that the Turkish foreign minister has thus far not felt the need to discuss the matter with him. This is not the first time that Turkish officials have refrained from commenting on reports that Iran cooperates with the PKK. Turkish newspapers, influenced by the Zionists, continue to publish these reports because they believe that they will be able to obstruct the improvement of Ankara-Tehran relations.

The fact that Iranian officials have urged Turkey several times to send a delegation to Tehran and provide documentary evidence of Iranian cooperation with the PKK shows that Iran wants to squelch these rumors, which could harm the friendly ties between the two countries. The Turkish Government's disinterest and failure to provide the necessary documents indicates that it either does not have any evidence or prefers to allow the rumors to continue.

Ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, foreign forces have tried to interfere in Iran's internal affairs. The United States has supported terrorist groups and pro-American forces within Iran. Tehran, on the other hand, has never tried to interfere in the internal affairs of its neighbors.

Undoubtedly, those in the Turkish newspapers who claim that Iran supports the PKK are trying to strain the long-standing and friendly relations between Turkey and Iran. Is there anyone unaware of the fact that Iran has always been a target of international terrorism? Iran has lost many high-ranking officials, including a president, a prime minister, [words indistinct], and other high-ranking officials. This being the case, and in view of the effort Iran has made to improve relations with its neighbors, the Turkish Government should disclose the documentary evidence it has regarding the allegations that Iran cooperates with the PKK. Otherwise, these empty claims serve no purpose. Undoubtedly, a denial from Turkish officials would squelch these rumors, but U.S. officials and their supporters in Turkey are preventing the Turkish Government from making a resolute decision. Nevertheless, Amb. Baqeri has disclosed that Iran is prepared to cooperate with the Turkish Government to investigate the claims made by the Turkish newspapers, and the Iranian Embassy expects the Turkish Government to make a practical initiative on this matter.

ANC's Mandela Arrives in Tehran

Met by Velayati

LD2107080692 Tehran IRNA in English 0652 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—President of South Africa's African National Congress (ANC), Nelson Mandela, arrived here on a two-day official visit today and was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Mandela told reporters at Mehrabad Airport: "We are here to thank the Iranian Government and nation for their support of the black people's struggles against apartheid."

He added that he is to discuss with President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani the political developments in South Africa in view of the relatively relaxed atmosphere in his homeland.

Referring to Mandela's struggle against apartheid, Velayati told reporters that "the capability shown by Mr. Mandela after release from 32 years of imprisonment in 1990, indicates that he can manage the affairs of his country. We will support his indefatigable struggles."

In 1952 Mandela was elected as the ANC president, he was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1963. In one of his historic statements from the prison, Mandela had said that his life was devoted to the South African people's struggle. "I am always thinking of a 'free and democratic' society in which all people (white and black) live together and have equal opportunities and facilities."

On Wednesday the 74 year old Mandela is to be awarded an honorary doctorate in law by Tehran University in the presence of the newly- appointed Minister of Culture and the Islamic Guidance Dr. 'Ali Larijani.

While in Tehran, Mandela is to meet with the president, foreign minister and minister of culture and Islamic guidance.

Mandela's Arrival Remarks

NC2107082692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] African National Congress [ANC] leader Nelson Mandela arrived in Tehran an hour ago at the invitation of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The ANC flag was flown in Tehran as a mark of respect by the Muslim revolutionary nation of Iran for the antiapartheid struggle of the blacks.

[Begin Mandela recording in English superimposed with Persian translation] Today I am here to thank the Iranian Government and people for supporting our people in their struggle against racial oppression and to present a report on political developments to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Our friends are here and they should know about events in our country. [end recording]

Dr. Velayati welcomed Mandela and his delegation at the official residence for leaders and heads of state. The high-level ANC delegation will hold talks with high-ranking Iranian officials and will assess their efforts to eliminate the apartheid regime.

Arriving in Tehran, Mandela spoke to our correspondent: [Begin Mandela recording in English superimposed with Persian translation] Negotiations have come to a standstill because we have withdrawn from them. In the past three years the ANC has become an official organization in south Africa. Prolonged and intensive discussions with the ruling government have enabled most of the people in exile to return to their homes. Many racist laws have been abolished. Problems remain between ourselves and the ruling government and we want the country to be administered in line with the people's wishes on the basis of free elections. We will continue our struggle until apartheid is eliminated. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Velayati also spoke to our correspondent and said: [Begin Velayati recording] Since his release from prison, Mandela has displayed valuable poise and shown that he is a prominent and suitable personality for a position at the helm of this important country's affairs. He has initiated an international campaign to convey the rightful message of the black majority in South Africa and continues his indefatigable efforts. For the sake of the South African people, even at the expense of material gains, Iran suspended the sale of its oil to South Africa after the Islamic revolution victory. The world recognizes this move and the black majority in South Africa appreciates it.

Mandela's visit to Iran is at President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's invitation. Naturally, on the eve of elections in South Africa, he should travel to Iran and elaborate his stance. During his stay he will meet esteemed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [end recording]

Radio, TV Cooperation With Tajikistan Planned

LD2007171992 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA—About 80 percent of Tajiks are interested in the programmes screened by the Iranian television (Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting - IRIB) especially news and cultural and arts programmes, announced head of Tajik broadcast Mirbaba Mir-Rahim here today.

Speaking to reporters Mir-Rahim said that IRIB's educational and other films and serials as well as children's programmes were regularly watched by many Tajiks.

He said certain countries, like Uzbekistan, broadcast radio and television programmes with the intent to interfere in the internal and political affairs of Tajikistan.

Mir-Rahim noted that 80 percent of Tajikistan's radio and television facilities and equipment had to be either reconstructed or renewed for which, he said, budget was needed, and that countries such as the U.S., Britain and Japan had expressed readiness.

Since those countries, said he, aimed to capitalize politically in Tajikistan, Dushanbe had not yet considered their offer.

He expressed hope that his country would benefit from the Islamic republic's help for reconstruction, and announced Tajik radio and television's readiness to cooperate with IRIB in cultural, artistic and educational fields.

Mir-Rahim proposed the unity of the Persian speaking nations like Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan in a bid to offset the West's cultural inroad.

Orumiyeh Plants To Process Nakhichevan Sugar Beet

LD2007203192 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Astara (Gilan), July 20, IRNA—A delegation of Nakhichevan's Ministry of Agriculture in its recent visit to Tehran agreed that sugar beet crops of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan be processed in Orumiyeh sugar factories, Iran's West Azerbaijan Province this year, said Radio Baku monitored here today.

Iranian sugar beet seeds have been sown on several hectares of farmlands in Nakhichevan.

A group of Nakhichevani agro-specialists were recently in Iran to learn the Iranian method of sugar beet cultivation.

UNESCO Urged To Punish Diplomat Smugglers

LD2107095992 Tehran IRNA in English 0903 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' today called on the UNESCO to formulate new legal punishments for diplomats who misuse their diplomatic immunity to smuggle antiques and cultural properties out of their host country.

Editorializing on the recent seizure of antiques from an Italian diplomat trying to smuggle them out of Iran, the daily urged the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation to also draw up regulations for the safe return of smuggled cultural heritages to their rightful owners.

Last week at the Bazargan point on the Turkish border customs officials seized antiques hidden in four trucks carrying the personal effects of an Italian diplomat out of Iran. The haul included dozens of paintings, metal and stone statues, hundreds of metal, wooden and ceramic pieces as well as old china, glass plates, bowls and ornate doors.

This is not the first time that a foreign diplomat has tried to smuggle antiques out of Iran, said the daily, adding that "as a matter of fact this cultural robbery has been a well established tradition for some foreign diplomats...When Iran established diplomatic ties with European countries."

It lamented that no one knows for sure how much worth of antiques have been illegally taken out of Iran by either diplomatic pouches or antique smugglers, however, "walking through the British and Louvre (Paris) museums, one can see a large collection of Persian antiques, dating from the Illamids' time (2225-645 B.C.) to the Qajar era (1794-1925 A.C.)."

Pointing out that smuggling of cultural heritages and antiques is a problem that most developing countries are faced with, the daily said it was time the UNESCO drew up new regulations "to ensure the safe return of these stolen cultural properties to their rightful owners."

"Meanwhile," it added, "new international legal punishment is needed for those diplomats who misuse their diplomatic immunity by attempting to smuggle cultural properties from their host country. Diplomatic immunity and pouch services should not be adulterated by cultural thieves and thievery."

* Sudanese Commanders in Tehran To Buy Hardware

92AS1239N London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] General Ehsan 'Abdol al-Rahman, the joint chief of the Sudanese Army and commander of the Air Force and Navy of that country, visited Tehran last week on an invitation by Reza'i, the commander of the Guard Corps. General 'Abd al-Rahman met with Torkan, the minister of defense and support of the Islamic Republic, and talked about joint cooperation between the two countries, which started some time ago.

According to an agreement signed last year between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the president of Sudan, the Guard Corps sent its members to participate in the suppression of rioters in the southern part of Sudan. The mission of that group changes every six months and they are replaced by new forces. The Islamic Republic has also extended $300 million in credit to the military directorship of Sudan to purchase missiles and other war equipment from China and $17 million in cash to purchase light weapons.

* Mojahedin-e Khalq Prisoners Freed in Israel

92AS1239M London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] Twelve former members of the People's Mojahedin organization who were jailed for several months in Israel were released and granted permission to reside temporarily in Israel.

They had illegally entered Elat Port in Israel when they were arrested immediately. The reason for seeking asylum in Israel was their protest against the vast cooperation between the People's Mojahedin organization and Iraq.

The 12 members were initially a group of 13, one of whom was killed by gunfire at the hands of Israeli border guards. Seeking asylum in Israel occurred in October last year (1991) and was not revealed by Israel until May of this year.

* Multilateral Cooperation With Tajikistan

92AS1239K London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] President Nabiyev, the president of Tajikistan, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani issued a joint communique at the end of the visit of Nabiyev to Tehran in which the two countries pledged to expand cooperation and respect each other's territorial integrity and national rule. According to this communique, the Islamic Republic will not resort to force in the future to solve its problems and will observe political liberties, the UN charter, and international commitments. This communique emphasizes cooperation in the area of parliamentary relations, trade, banking activities, and industries, as well as other areas of interest to both sides. Iran and Tajikistan announced that from now on, their countries will be free and outside the boundaries of nuclear and chemical weapons and their hopes for peace and tranquility in their countries. The elimination of visas for travel between the two countries and the signing of consulate agreements were emphasized by both sides. Among the other agreements between the two governments, scientific, literary, artistic, religious, health and medical, cinema and theater, tourism, mass media, and scientific and technical research cooperations are worthy of note. At the same time, both countries will engage in a joint effort to fight to eliminate narcotics smuggling, terrorism, and kidnapping and prevent the theft of antiques. Nabiyev and his accompanying delegation returned to Tajikistan through Shiraz.

* Khomeyni's Daughter Travels to Azerbaijan

92AS1239C London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jul 92 p 9

[Text] Zahra Mostafavi, the daughter of Ruhollah Khomeyni, left for the Republic of Azerbaijan at the head of a delegation comprised of the Central Committee of the Society for Women of the Islamic Republic."

Before leaving Tehran, Zahra Mostafavi said that the purpose of this visit was to neutralize the propaganda of the "global oppressors," according to which the social activities of women in the Islamic Republic are restricted.

She also said that the disintegration of the Soviet communist empire has created an "intellectual and ideological" void in Central Asia, which must be filled, and this is one of the goals of this visit: "This visit is a positive step toward introducing pure Mohammadan Islam to the youth and women of the newly independent republics."

Also, in Sari the announcement was made that the Islamic propaganda organization of Mazandaran will send to those areas a number of religious missionaries to guide the people of the Muslim republics of Central Asia. Prior to their departure, the above-mentioned missionaries are to receive the necessary training to carry out their religious mission in the Central Asian republics in classes to be set up on the instructions of the "leader."

Ayatollah Jannati, the head of the board of trustees of the Islamic propaganda organization, also said in an interview that this organization has so far sent 200 missionaries, 150 religious eulogizers and Koran reciters, and more than 65,000 volumes of the Koran and other books to those republics.

Paper Warns Against Relying on Foreign Experts

PM2007141492 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 8 Jul 92 p 2

[Unattributed editorial: "Self-Confidence, the Revolution's Primary Slogan"]

[Text] At the beginning of the month of Mohharam, Ayatollah Khamene'i gave a speech stressing the need for self-reliance during the period of rebuilding. In this speech he pointed out something which is very important. This speech is without a doubt derived from the pure revolutionary ideas of the Imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited. From the time that the revolution succeeded until the last moments of his life, as well as in his political and religious last will and testament, the Imam always stressed the need to utilize and increase internal resources. To put it in simple terms, he considered the phrase "believing in one's own ability" to be an integral part of the liberation movements of the Muslim masses.

Unfortunately, as far as rebuilding after the war is concerned, some experts looked abroad rather than inside the country where there is plenty of talent available. This expert opinion caused some officials to go along with this idea which focused their attention outside Iranian borders. Attracting Iranian investors who live abroad, lifting the restrictions on foreign investments in Iran, efforts to get loans from the World Bank and the IMF and so forth, are among the steps that have been taken recently. They point to the fact that some officials are turning to countries outside our borders. These types of action have been put across with much force and there has been talk of an "urgent need" for capital and expertise and contact with the outside world. This has automatically created the impression in the people's minds that Iran is now willing to compromise when it comes to its principles and values.

Under these circumstances, the warning by Ayatollah Khamene'i that "officials have to rely on the peoples' talents and must not stretch out their hands toward the enemy" was well-timed and created hope. In another section of his speech he said, "We must not give the opportunity to the enemy to think that we have a weakness." In this connection it must be said that what adds to the negative effects of this type of action is the kind of belief that it provokes among the owners of the revolution, the people of this country. When all eyes are fixed abroad local talent loses its confidence and those

blossoming powers will dry up. This is an added loss which increases the need for the country to use foreign facilities.

Of course it is obvious to all that in a period of rebuilding there is need for all types of facilities in all spheres. There is need for capital, expert manpower, political relations, economic deals, and so forth. These are all part of our needs and without a doubt they have to be provided. The point is how to achieved these facilities and to meet the needs of the country in such a way as to ensure that the purity of the Islamic revolution is not compromised with the passage of time.

In his speech the leader of the revolution truly said the last word and that is this: "The enemy will not help those who believe in Islam in any way. They are hostile toward Islam and all officials in various sectors have to keep this in mind." Therefore it is everyone's duty to look toward the friends of Islam even though at the beginning of rebuilding it may mean having to slow down our pace. But once those friendly toward Iran and the revolution see that they play the main role in the rebuilding of their country, they will without a doubt make adequate effort and have the courage to work even harder to speed up the wheels of progress. This effort and superior courage of the Iranian people have been proved time and time again at sensitive times throughout history. Now there is the potential for this to be proved yet again. It all depends on general executive policies, law-making, and support needed in order to give the necessary attention to local forces. Just as Ayatollah Khamene'i said: "We must rely on ourselves. Foreigners are not trustworthy."

Sohrabi on Support for Khamene'i, Special Units

LD2007184492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Excerpt] To mark the anniversary of the formation of the Law Enforcement Force, Brigadier Sohrabi, the commander of the nation's Law Enforcement Force, spoke to reporters this morning. Pointing out the recent guidelines of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, regarding the need to confront the cultural invasion of the West—and the need to carry out the religious duty of propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice—he said: As a revolutionary force, the Law Enforcement Force throughout the nation will continue to abide by the orders of the commander-in-chief [Khamene'i]. With the cooperation of hezbollahi forces and the brave basijis [Mobilization Corps], it will carry out its duties in the struggle against social vice and the cultural invasion of the West.

Honoring the memory of the martyrs and devotees of the said Force, he said: After the merger of the Law Enforcement Forces, hitherto nearly 2m passports and 1.5m driving permits have been issued. Further, 48 tonnes of narcotic drugs, smuggled cigarettes, and other illegal goods have been discovered.

Regarding the formation of specialized units of the Law Enforcement Force Brigadier Sohrabi said: These units have been established in Tehran and other provincial capitals. As trained, martyrdom-seeking and devout forces, they are at the service of the commander. [passage omitted]

Nateq-Nuri Meets Nuclear Energy Officials

LD2007163192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri held separate meetings today with Malezadeh, the health and treatment and medical training minister and that ministry's officials, and with officials of the Atomic Energy Organization. [passage omitted]

In his meeting with the Atomic Energy Organization officials, the Majles speaker underlined the need to expand the nuclear energy industry for peaceful purposes, and called on the officials to carry out their duties earnestly.

* Mashhad Demonstrators 'Children' of Revolution

92AS1205A London KEYHAN in Persian 2 Jul 92 pp 1, 9

[Text] While the display of power by the regime through the mobilization units continued throughout the country last week, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, in its 1 Tir [22 Jun] issue, in the most informative article published to date about the Mashhad uprising in the country, warned the officials of the regime that "if serious, effective, and fundamental steps are not taken in certain areas, the possibility of a repetition of those events in another form elsewhere is not too remote." JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI writes: "Ascribing the Mashhad incident to belligerent minigroups and others not only fails to solve any problem or exonerate anyone and will not hide anyone's blame, but also the repetition of this point of ascribing it to belligerent minigroups can only aggrandize them and ascertain their power of influence and organization to shape such incidents for certain people who have no power and influence and are about to fall apart."

The above-mentioned newspaper, which is owned by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, continues, saying that as soon as the initial protesting majority, who were residents of Tollab Street, sensed the potential that their protest to the City Hall against the destruction of their illegal houses would turn violent, they stepped aside, and the "movement of the crowd continued without the presence of the initial protesters." From then on, the age composition of the crowd that had started emotionally became consistently younger, all eyewitnesses mentioning it to be between 15 and 25 years. A number of people left the crowd along the way, which shows that they were not part of the group who continued the movement that gradually turned into a riot. Instead, others, apparently waiting for such action, joined the crowd. Still no information has been published on the occupations and

livelihood of the group that engaged in the riots to the end. But it is quite clear that this adventurous group had nothing to lose. The main aspect of the issue is the sense of not belonging to something hopeful."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI then refers to the presence of young people who were raised during the revolution among the rioters and writes: "The presence of the youth and young people between 15 and 25 years of age among this group is a warning sign. If we subtract the years since the revolution from the ages of this group, they should have been between two and 12 years old at the start of the revolution. In addition, the proved absence of recognized belligerent groups and organizations among this group shows that such riots are possible even in the absence of belligerent minigroups, which is another warning."

The above-mentioned newspaper then emphasized the restraint of the security forces in confronting the demonstrators and writes:

"The major point that seems serious here is the inaction of the security forces and their being absolutely taken aback by the dimensions of the events, which essentially shows the incongruent structure of the security forces and the fact that the majority of them, if not all of them, fail to carry out their responsibilities. The Mashhad incident, without the presence of wild minigroups, was accompanied by the disarming of two police stations. How is it possible, should another such incident arise, and this time with the presence and leadership of minigroups, to expect resistance from these same people?"

JOMHURI-YE ELSAMI continues its article and, endorsing the rapid action of the judicial branch in executing and condemning to jail those arrested in the Mashhad uprising, writes: "This rapid action is good. But is this the only place in which the judicial branch should be speedy?"

Finally, the newspaper affiliated with the leader of the Islamic Republic concluded: "One lesson should be learned from the Mashhad incident for all cities, which is that all decisionmaking centers should be reminded of the seriousness of the issue of migration and its tragic results. Simultaneous with the abandonment of villages is the resulting rush of the population to the cities and the mushrooming of illegal residential units around small and large cities. And those who in the villages were considered among the productive forces, because they lack the necessary serious motivation to stay in the villages, become burdens on the society, and because of their weak financial ability, they have to look for shelter in the outskirts of cities. The disproportionate accumulation of populations in the cities and villages, the chaotic situation of the structure of the national population, and consequently the release of a great number of children and youth in the outskirts of cities, which do not even have a clear plan with regard to their own youths, have doubled the problem. The presence of schools with several shifts in large cities is today considered normal. This phenomenon means that the attendance of our children and youths in school is regularly becoming shorter, thus, they are forced to wander at home or in the streets to pass the time. This spark, this incident, once again reiterates the critical problem of the youth and demonstrates that if serious, effective, and widespread steps are not taken to keep children occupied, the young people, who can be the solution to our problems, will be the creators of problems and will be forced to witness the unwanted presence of the riffraff and ruffians of our Islamic and revolutionary society.

* Demonstrations Provoked by Dissatisfaction

92AS1239A London KEYHAN in Persian
9 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] In total contradiction to the official reports on the riots in various cities of Iran, including Shiraz, Arak, Mashhad, and Bukan, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohaqqeq-Damad, the inspector general of the country, strongly attacked administrative and government organizations and considered the dissatisfaction of the people with the government as the main cause of the riots.

The official propaganda on the riots is that they are the work of "a handful of rabble rousers" guided by hands from abroad and blame the judicial organization and the security forces for being "lenient" with regard to the rioters. But Mohammad Yazdi, on the one hand, and Mohaqqeq-Damad, on the other, believe that accusing the judicial and security organizations of failing to do their duty will not solve the problems. They suggest that while the roots of discontent, corruption, unemployment, discrimination, deception of the people, and in particular high prices continue to exist, the likelihood of riots breaking out on a larger scale the next time is by no means minimal.

In the meantime, the city halls continue the destruction of houses and shops that motivated but did not cause the riots. Mohaqqeq-Damad pointed out that, on the one hand, the people who have rioted are punished, but, on the other hand, those who are the cause and instigators of the riots remain untouched. He emphasized that in his written reports he has identified the "dissatisfaction-creating elements" by name and title, but not one has been "punished for his actions."

While the high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic have announced the main cause of the riots in Iranian cities, particularly Shiraz, Arak, Mashhad, and Bukan, as the "conspiracies of the oppressors" and their "domestic allies and agents," Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohaqqeq-Damad, the inspector general of the country, regarded the main cause of the riots as the general "discontent" in the society.

Speaking in a gathering of judicial officials, he pointed out that "city halls, the offices of governors general and

governors, hospitals and treatment centers, bus companies, airlines, railroads, ministries, and so on, all create problems for the people, and this causes discontent throughout the country."

Mohaqqeq-Damad said: If the regulations of the country are "Islamic," all their parts must be implemented. "If we implement one part and abandon another, it will be disastrous."

The inspector general of the country rejected the accusation that the judicial organization and the security forces were lenient with regard to the recent riots and said: "The judicial branch has not been lenient...it has acted within the framework of the law." Without naming any agency or person, he asked: "Should the agencies that have created discontent and caused these events not be punished?" He added: "Have those who do not carry out the laws and in their interviews pride themselves on having broken the law even been put on trial?"

Mohaqqeq-Damad said that the general inspection agency of the country, knowing the depth and breadth of discontent in the society, was expecting "such events," and for this reason, before any incident occurred, had "prepared a documented report and offered it in order to prevent possible incidents." He did not say to which authority this report was presented, but did say: "Those who failed to prevent these incidents must answer today." The inspector general of the country then explained himself in more detail: "Why did the city halls fail in their duties, resulting in these incidents occurring today?" He added: "It is not only in the city halls; today the situation of hospitals is also the same. There is not one day when treatment centers do not create a few counterrevolutionaries and dissatisfied people."

The inspector general of the country, who is known for his frankness, said: If someone wants to carry out a business deal, including the buying and selling of property or cars, "by the time the bureaucratic procedures are over, he becomes fed up." He pointed out that when he expressed these facts on the television of the Islamic Republic, after the interview, the executive officials, who act like a "gang," pressured him, asking: "Why did you talk about the problems?"

Mohaqqeq-Damad said: Creating problems continues, including in the Ministry of Industries, Mines, and Metals, or in the National Airlines Corporation, where "as a rule, flights run with a two-hour delay." According to him, there is a "stench in the trains," and "other disorders torment the people."

The inspector general of the country then referred to educational inadequacies and especially the lack of comforts in the universities and said: "Still, in some of the universities students use receptacles as dormitories."

Concerning the start of the bloody events in Arak, he said: "An eight-year-old child was tragically killed under the wheels of a truck that was speeding by, right in front of his parents. The parents of the child asked the governor general to come to the location of the incident and explain to them why the city hall has not built the crossing bridge that has been promised for years." He then asked: "Who is guilty here? Those who caused the incident must be carefully identified."

At the same time, he praised the judicial organization and said: "But any sort of illegal punishment or illegal confiscation of property would be a disaster."

City Halls Behaved Unjustly

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbasifard, the head of the administrative court of justice of the regime in Bushehr, said: "City halls usually have acted outside the bounds of their authority and have dealt unjustly with the people."

He said: "Most complaints received by the Administrative Justice Courts concern city halls, the selection of students in education departments and universities, the seven-member committees, land transfers, the Urban Land Organization, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development."

* Karrubi Forced Out of Martyr Foundation

92AS1239D London KEYHAN in Persian
9 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Mehdi Karrubi, the head of the "Martyr Foundation," will be removed from this position. Mehdi Karrubi, the former speaker of the Majles (third term), was one of the most influential officials in the Islamic Republic. A member of the Central Council of the Militant Clerics Association, he nominated himself for the Fourth Majles, but was defeated along with other candidates and did not get to the Majles.

The failure of Karrubi to join the Majles placed his dismissal as the head of the Martyr Foundation on the day's agenda, because it did not seem logical to deny him a post as a Majles deputy and at the same time allow him to head the above-mentioned foundation, which is a large financial empire and, along with the Foundation for the Oppressed and others, is a government within the government of the Islamic Republic.

The name of Mehdi Karrubi was coupled with gross financial waste, including the wedding of his son, which is said to have cost 20 million tomans and was known to everyone.

In Tehran, it is said that with the dismissal of Mehdi Karrubi from the Martyr Foundation, his wife, Fatemeh Karrubi, will also be dismissed from the position of supervisor of the Martyr Foundation hospitals.

No successor has yet been chosen to replace Mehdi Karrubi. Generally, the leader of the Islamic Republic appoints the head of the foundation. It is expected that with the appointment of a new supervisor the waste and prospects of huge profits that this foundation is accused of will be investigated. Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judicial branch, and Nateq-Nuri, the present speaker

of the Majles, are among the strong opponents of Mehdi Karrubi. Karrubi was strongly supported by Khomeyni and established the Militant Clerics Association with Khomeyni's spiritual and financial support. After Khomeyni's death, he could not gain the political support needed to make up for the absence of Khomeyni. Ahmad Khomeyni, who played a significant role in founding the Militant Clerics Association as a force against the Tehran Militant Clergy Association, with Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani as its secretary general, after the death of his father, gradually distanced himself from the Militant Clerics Association and has lost his influence with the faction of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Khamene'i, and Yazdi.

Mehdi Karrubi was in charge of the Iranian hajj pilgrims during the hajj pilgrimage ceremonies of 1987, when upon instructions by Khomeyni a great riot started in Mecca in which about 40 Iranian pilgrims, most of whom were revolutionary guards, were killed.

* Newspaperman Arrested for Espionage

92AS1205P London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Jul 92 p 5

[Text] According to news agencies from Tehran, an Iranian newspaperman was recently arrested on charges of "espionage" and has been prosecuted.

He is accused of giving "secret government documents" to certain European embassies, but the judicial authorities did not clarify how a newspaperman could have access to secret government documents and which embassies received these documents.

The newspaperman arrested and prosecuted is Salman Heydari, who has worked for SALAM and ABRAR.

SALAM, which is managed by Musavi-Kho'ini, the defeated Majles candidate of the "Society of Militant Clerics," has been operating for less than a year and is the official organ of the "Society of Militant Clerics" and a serious opponent of the economic and foreign policies of Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Nevertheless, Musavi-Kho'ini is not only in charge of the Strategic Studies Institute of the Islamic Republic but is also a member of the regime's "Council for the Discernment of Expediency."

ABRAR was published shortly after the victory of the Islamic revolution when it took over the print shop of AYANDEGAN and engaged in defending the most extremist tendencies in the Tehran regime. It was known to be especially close to the Guard Corps.

For reasons that never became clear, during the term of prime minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, ABRAR was shut down by the Public Prosecutor's Office, and it took years before it could resume publication, after the Iran-Iraq war. Although in its opposition to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, ABRAR is not as persistent as SALAM and in terms of professional work is far inferior to it, its views are not always in line with those of the regime.

In the political-press circles in Tehran, the arrest of Salman Heydari is related to the efforts of the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani to suppress the voice of opposition in the press. This arrest could be a precursor to further steps to limit the field of action by the press in general and the opposition press in particular and may even end in their closure.

* SALAM on Reaction to Arrested Newsman

92AS1239L London KEYHAN in Persian
9 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] KEYHAN (published in Tehran) reported that Salman Heydari, the correspondent and agent of SALAM newspaper in Qom, was arrested on charges of relations with "one of the minigroups," regular contact with a European embassy, giving news and information to that embassy, and that his case was sent to the revolutionary court.

In its first reaction to this report, SALAM wrote that while the minister of information warns newspapers against publishing reports on arrests, it showed no reaction against the publication of this item by KEYHAN. SALAM then added: "It is said that the special reports column in KEYHAN is supplied by the Ministry of Information."

SALAM then, relying on Article 39 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, wrote: "Attacks against the honor and dignity of a person who is arrested, detained, jailed, or punished by law is prohibited in any form." It then added: "Have they given that prisoner the right to complain against that newspaper, especially since none of the accusations have been investigated and proved in the country?"

SALAM explains that the charges against the accused have not yet been specified and writes: In many organizations, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Defense Forces, there were "influential elements" who were arrested and sometimes executed. It then asks: "Why is it that when an important spy is arrested in one of the important ministries, there is no mention of it?"

* Kermanshah Regains Original Name

92AS1239F London KEYHAN in Persian
9 Jul 92 p 3

[Text] Under the pressure of public opinion and upon the insistence of the people of the province of Kermanshah, the forged name of "Bakhtaran," which was chosen in 1362 [21 Mar 1983-20 Mar 1984] during the changing of the original names of cities and provinces in the country, for the province of "Kermanshah" was abolished by the Majles, and the original name of this province was restored. The name of the city of "Bakhtaran" was restored to "Kermanshah," which was chosen during the time of Reza Shah the Great. The deputy from Kermanshah in the Majles said that not even one

person in the province has accepted the name "Bakhtaran," and they do not use it.

With the announcement of the decision of the Majles to restore the name of "Kermanshah," a wave of joy overtook the city, and the people celebrated the removal of the imposition by the regime of the Islamic Republic by dancing and distributing fruits and sweets in the streets.

IRNA reported from Kermanshah: "In interviews with the reporter of IRNA, various strata of the people expressed joy in changing the name Bakhtaran to Kermanshah."

This news agency added: "In an interview with our correspondent, a Kermanshah citizen, who is the father of two martyrs in the war, expressed happiness with the change of the name of Bakhtaran to Kermanshah and said: The word Kermanshah shows the identity, culture, and history of this nation, and we must try to preserve it and prevent its change."

* Regime Backs Away From Reducing Subsidies

92AS1239B London KEYHAN in Persian
9 Jul 92 pp 1, 8

[Text] 'Adeli, the director of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic, backed away openly from the economic policies of the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and announced that the payment of subsidies to keep the price of essential goods artificially low will continue as before. 'Adeli said: "At the present time, the government is by no means trying to reduce the subsidies on essential goods. Even after the reform of the foreign currency policy, subsidies for essential goods will continue."

Explaining this general change in the economic policy, which in the opinion of informed observers is the result of the unstable political situation of the government and powerful demonstrations due to the dissatisfaction of the people in small and large cities, 'Adeli added: "Subsidies are the money that government gives a certain stratum to supplement the living expenses they need compared to the strata that have money. Now the government gives the same amount of money to all the people regardless of their income level. For instance, if the government subsidizes gasoline at 10 tomans per liter, it gives it to all the people. Of course, it comes from the pockets of all the people, because subsidies are out of the pockets of all the people. Consequently, a person who has a 10 to 12 cylinder vehicle and a person who walks on foot both give their subsidy, but one benefits from this subsidy while the other one does not. This is not rational and the government wants to change it. The government wants to give this subsidy to those who are more deserving of it, as opposed to those who have higher incomes. What is the effect of subsidies such as those for Tide and coupons for some items for people who have incomes of 40,000 to 50,000 tomans? Certainly for people with incomes under 10,000 tomans, this is very effective and necessary. Hence, the policy of the government is to make subsidies reasonable."

'Adeli also avoided announcing the time and the procedures to standardize the rate of foreign currency and said: "You can never get an answer to two questions from the director of the Central Bank. One is, when, and the other is in what rates will you make changes? But what I can say is that this capacity requires the climate, acceptance, and tolerance of the society. Our society has many problems, and the people have realized and understood this, and we are planning to standardize the rate of foreign currency."

Previously, the officials of the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani in various positions have provided information concerning the rate of foreign currency being standardized by the end of this year [20 Mar 1993], with the rate of the dollar vis-a-vis the rial announced at about 1,000 tomans per dollar.

The director of the Central Bank of the regime in another part of his statements, which he made during a question-and-answer period between the people and the officials, which was carried out on the radio of the Islamic Republic, tried to encourage people to deposit their money in the banks of the country and revealed that interest rates on deposits in banks have increased: "Some banks may by the end of 1371 [20 March 1993] pay 14.5 percent interest, but others may raise it to 17 percent."

He referred to the distrust of the people in the banking system of the country and said: "We must make checks more acceptable, and we must inculcate in the people the idea that they should avoid cash transactions and make use of checks, credit cards, and credit checks. Of course, problems regarding this task, including lack of credit for checks in all banks, must be eliminated."

'Adeli asked the bank officials "to increase the number of gifts they give to customers, and to include all those who have accounts in banks among those receiving these gifts, so that these gifts can attract customers."

The director of the Central Bank asked the people to deposit their money in the banks instead of investing it in buildings and explained: "Today, instead of purchasing an apartment for 5 million [tomans] to rent at a high price, it is recommended that the money be invested in banks, because with the same amount of money, a depositor can receive 60,000 tomans per month from the bank."

In response to radio listeners who complained about the decline in the value of the rial and were astonished at the worthlessness of the national monetary unit in Saudi Arabia during the hajj pilgrimage, 'Adeli said: "At one time, for every 1,000 tomans abroad, they either paid no money or would pay less for it. For example, our compatriots would pay this amount of money and receive 20 to 25 Saudi riyals. But this person must know

that four years ago, if he paid the same 1,000 tomans, he would have received three riyals."

The director of the Central Bank then tried to justify the worthlessness of Iranian money abroad and said: "My dear compatriots must realize that we have no control over currency outside Iranian borders."

* Jannati on Representatives to Republics

92AS1205Q Tehran ABRAR in Persian 23 Jun 92 p 3

[Text] Explaining the characteristics of art in the Islamic revolution and its spread in the world, Ayatollah Jannati said: Islamic art must once again come to the scene and export the message of the Islamic revolution abroad.

He added: This important objective is not possible without being equipped with potential resources.

Continuing, the head of the Islamic Propaganda Agency, stated that in the past 10 years we have been able to participate in more than 100 international conferences, and termed the activities of the Islamic Propaganda Agency in the area of art and sciences very significant and said: With these efforts, the Research Institute of Baqer al-'Olum in Qom was established, and it successfully provided applicants with the necessary religious information, so that so far, information from 20,000 books has been collected, and 55,000 books have been catalogued.

Pakistan

Army Fully Supports Democratic Order

BK2107055592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] A high-level meeting at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi yesterday reviewed the progress of Operation Clean-Up, currently under way in Sindh. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif attended the meeting. Others who also attended the meeting were Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, Interior Minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff committee, the chiefs of three services, and the Karachi Corps Commander Lieutenant General Mohammad Nasir Akhtar.

General Asif Nawaz, chief of Army Staff, reiterated that the Army fully supports democratic order. He stated that the mandate given by the elected government will be executed within the parameters of the power granted to the army.

During the meeting, which lasted for over three hours, complete unanimity of views was manifested. Some suggestions to improve overall performance of the law enforcing agencies also came under discussion. The meeting decided that Operation Clean-Up will continue until final results are achieved so that national peace is established and banditry, kidnapping, and other heinous crimes are eliminated, and the elected government of the province can fully exercise its control. It was stated at the meeting that this operation will continue with fair play and that it is not against any political party or linguistic group, but only against criminal elements, and action will be taken against all criminal elements irrespective of any party affiliations. No person will be allowed to take the law into his own hands under any pretext. It was emphasized at the meeting that the majority of the people in Sindh, whether Sindhis or Urdu-speakers or belonging to other ethnic or linguistic groups, are law-abiding, patriotic citizens of the country. These people want to live in peace and harmony with one another and the government is determined to foil the designs of anti-national elements to create division and feeling of alienation among them. There was a consensus that a long-term solution can only be achieved through the comprehensive social-economic reforms package already announced by the government.

Opposition Accused of Destabilizing Government

BK2007141392 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 20 Jul 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Politics of Disruption"]

[Text] Once again the opposition parties are up to their old tricks. At a time when the whole country is backing the clean-up operation in Sindh and appreciating the Army's effort in flushing out criminals and dacoits [as published] to restore peace and normalcy to the province, some disgruntled politicians are out to create confusion. Last week they created a farcical situation in the Sindh Assembly and indulged in rowdyism of the worst kind showing least concern for their own prestige or that of the House. That kind of behaviour is now followed by two threats—that of en masse resignation of PDA legislators and their allies to force fresh parliamentary elections, and nationwide demonstrations on July 30 to exert pressure on the government through street power.

It is strange that those who call the present Government unconstitutional are themselves resorting to unconstitutional methods in an effort to destabilise it. The floor of the assemblies is the place where a ruling party can be taken to task and not by holding demonstrations and launching agitations against it. Even if the threat of resignations is carried out, it would hardly create any political or constitutional crisis in the country. Launching a country-wide protest campaign and trying to bring people onto the streets to serve their own ends is not only a negation of democracy but also against national interest. Again, the demand for the formation of a national government is undemocratic and unconstitutional. No provision exists in the Constitution for such a thing. Similarly, there is hardly any plausible reason for the assemblies to be dissolved as the government has been returned to power through a massive mandate from the people and enjoys a comfortable majority in the

House. A government is ousted only when a no-confidence motion is tabled against it and carried in the Assembly. This is what the opposition is reluctant to do as it is well aware of its legislative strength. The present government is stable enough to withstand the hullabaloo of the opposition. Those trying to create an unnecessary uproar should know that agitations are launched against dictators and not democratically elected regimes. It is to be hoped the opposition will see reason and desist from disrupting the democratic process in the country.

Minister Criticizes PDA Attitude in Sindh

BK1807060892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Commerce Minister Malik Mohammad Naim Khan has criticized the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] attitude in the Sindh Assembly session. In a statement yesterday, he said that PDA members have no respect for democracy.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah has reiterated that Operation Cleanup in Sindh was started only to eliminate anti-social elements and that the provincial government has no political aims behind it. Talking to a 16-member group of journalists from Islamabad in Karachi yesterday, he said the timely action taken by the law enforcement agencies has normalized the situation in the province and the people will soon witness a period of progress. The chief minister said the Sindh government is considering cancelling all arms licenses issued since 1988 and after that each license application will be considered on its merit.

Official Meets European Envoys on Kashmir Problem

BK2007154292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Pakistan has called upon the European Community to persuade India to agree to a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The call was made by Secretary General Foreign Affairs Mr. Akram Zaki while talking to the European Community ambassadors based in Islamabad today. Mr. Zaki apprised the ambassadors on the latest situation in occupied Kashmir and efforts being made by Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully. Pakistan has been consistently trying to engage India in a constructive dialogue on Kashmir and in this regard, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, on his own initiative has held six meetings with his Indian counterparts. Mr. Zaki said while India continued to play lip-service to bilateral talks and the Simla Agreement, its attitude continued to be more elusive and non-commital on the issue.

He described the allegations on Pakistan's material support to mojahedin in Kashmir as baseless and malicious. He categorically stated that Pakistan is opposed to all forms of terrorism, while India was practicing state terrorism in Kashmir. Mr. Zaki said that Pakistan was not interfering in the indigenous uprising in Kashmir and reiterated Islamabad's proposal for stationing of impartial observers along the Line of Control. India has rejected this proposal because it feared that its false and hollow claims would be completely exposed.

Mr. Zaki referred to the resolution adopted by the European Parliament in March this year upholding the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the UN resolutions. He, however, regretted the lack of follow-up action by the European Community. He said that the European Community because of its ever-increasing political role in the world affairs is under obligation to help the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue peacefully in accordance with the UN resolutions which guarantee the exercise of right of self-determination by the people in Kashmir.

Finance Official Views Ties With Afghan Minister

BK2007152092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] In a meeting in Islamabad today, Pakistan and Afghanistan discussed measures to strengthen relations in economic, trade, communications, and other sectors. The federal minister for finance and economic affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, led the Pakistani side, while the Afghan minister for construction [title as heard], Engineer (Ayyub), headed his country's delegation. The two sides exchanged views on Pakistan-Afghan trade-transit agreement. In this context, possibilities of having uniform tariff between the two countries were also discussed. Mr. Sartaj Aziz assured that Pakistan would extend necessary cooperation to Kabul in rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan. The Afghan minister thanked Pakistan for its support, assistance, and cooperation in the reconstruction of his country.

Highway Pact Signed With Uzbekistan, Afghanistan

BK2007125492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Pakistan, Uzbekistan and the Islamic state of Afghanistan have signed an agreement on cooperation in construction and restoration of highways. The agreement was signed in Islamabad today by the Pakistani minister of state for communications, Mr. Mohammad Azam Hoti, and Uzbek minister for highways, Mr. (Rustam Yunisov), and the adviser to the president of Afghanistan, Engineer (Ayyub), on behalf of their governments. The agreement followed a series of rounds of talks among the delegations of the three countries. It notes that the parties have realized the need for development of transportation ties as well as cooperation in construction and restoration of highways among the three countries.

Chinese Delegation Arrives for Visit 17 Jul

BK1707160192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] A seven-member Chinese delegation led by Mr. Wang Feng, Vice Minister for Radio, Cinema, and Television, arrived in Islamabad this evening on a week-long visit to Pakistan. Speaking to newsmen upon arrival in Islamabad, the Chinese vice minister said the purpose of his visit to Pakistan is to increase cooperation between the two countries in the field of information. He said, in this connection, an accord will be signed with Pakistan.

He expressed hope that his visit will greatly help in increasing cooperation between the two friendly countries. During its stay in Pakistan, the delegation will hold talks with Abdul Sattar Lalika, federal minister for information and broadcasting, and senior officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The delegation was also welcomed by senior officials of radio and television departments.

TV Cooperation Discussed

BK1807145092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] An in-depth review of enhancing bilateral cooperation between the television networks of China and Pakistan was taken at a meeting in Islamabad today. The Chinese delegation at the talks was led by the vice minister for radio, film, and television, Mr. Wang Feng, while the PTV side was led by its managing director, Mr. Ahmad Hassan Sheikh. Both sides agreed that there should be a regular exchange of views between the two television networks so as to enlighten the viewers both in Pakistan and China about the significant events and achievements of the two countries in various developmental projects. The Chinese side offered training facilities and called for frequent visits by media delegations of each other's country to help accelerate attaintment of objective concerning joint production. It was decided that a formal agreement to this effect will be signed shortly.

Later, the Chinese delegation went round the technical areas of the Pakistan Television Center, Islamabad. The Chinese vice minister for radio, film, and television, Mr. Wang Feng, was taken round the VTR [video tape recorder], telecine [as heard], and control rooms of the television center by the general manager of Pakistan Television, Mr. Abdul Karim Baloch.

Foreign Secretary Meets Turkish Official

BK2007152892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The entire range of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Turkey were reviewed in talks held in Islamabad today. The Turkish side was led by undersecretary of Turkish foreign minister, Mr. (Ozdan Sanbarg), while the foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar M. Khan, led Pakistan's side. They discussed various proposals to intensify their links in economic and commercial fields and stressed that the private sector should come forward to play a vital role to enhance and expand trade between the two countries. In this regard, it was agreed that the banks of the two countries should establish closer collaboration. Apart from regular participation in each other's major trade fairs, single-country exhibitions should be organized in Turkey and Pakistan to introduce the whole range of their products. The two sides also reviewed the status of communications between the two countries and underlined the need for its expansion, particularly in the fields of shipping, railway and road links, telefax, telephone and telecommunications.

The two sides also agreed to evolve a mechanism for a regular exchange of visits at working and ministerial level, keeping the progress of their bilateral relations under constant review. In addition to bilateral relations, the two sides exchanged views on their regional issues. They discussed several possibilities of cooperation in regard to the economic and cultural relations with the Central Asian states. The Turkish side was apprised of the latest developments in Kashmir and Afghanistan.

The foreign secretary thanked the Turkish Government and the people for extending their unequivocal support to the struggle of the people of the occupied Kashmir for self-determination. The Turkish undersecretary briefed the foreign secretary at length on the aims and objectives of Black Sea economic cooperation and the latest developments in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

International Gang of Drug Dealers Spotted

BK1907112192 Islamabad THE NATION in English 17 Jul 92 p 4

[Text] Lahore—A secret agency has spotted an organised network of international drug-pushers involving important political figures and several police officers of DSP [Deputy Superintendent of Police] and inspector ranks, the agency has sent its report to the Inspector-General of Police, Punjab, asking for necessary action against the said officers.

Sources disclosed to THE NATION that the alleged gangsters also have links with the Indian Secret Agency. A crackdown on the police personnel said to be involved in the shabby business is likely within 24 hours. The police officers specifically named in the report sent by the Home Ministry to the IG [Inspectors General] Punjab are DSP Highways Lahore, DSP Anti-Corruption, WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority], a dozen Inspectors including the present SHO [Station House Officers] Tibbi and SHO, Mozong.

Two other important figures, Ex MPA [member of provincial assembly] from Jehlum District, Rajn Kamran and a local businessman Mohammad Ijaz are already under detention in Sub-Jull Chung for their alleged involvement in drug-pushing in the city.

The businessman, Mohammad Inz was arrested by the Ravl Road police on June 25 and a large quantity of charas was recovered from his possession. Later about two dozen persons were also taken into the custody for their links with the said drug pushers.

Exsistence of this gang was indicated when the Interpol arrested a Pakistani smuggler and recovered huge quantity of heroin from his possession at a London airport about a month ago.

Interrogation on the said Pakistani, whose identity could not be learnt, revealed the involvement of police officers and the political figures in selling and pushing heroin in Lahore.

The information collected from the accused was later sent to Pakistan and action was demanded against the persons involved. After arresting Ijaz, the Interior Ministry issued directive for 3 months detention of civilians persons involved with a direction to the IG, Punjab to take necessary nation against the police officials.

It may be mentioned that over the last couple of years heroin sale in the provincial metropolis has touched alarming proportions and on number of occasions narcotics-pushers were found having close links with certain police officers.

The DSP, Highways has a notorious history in this connection. He was suspected in many cases and investigated several times but without any results. As in Inspector posted in Lahore, the DSP was prime suspect in a narcotics case. The Pakistan Narcotics Control Board conducted investigations against him and discovered drug-pushing by his tenants in his home town.

The said DSP is a brother of an MPA and his political connections were allegedly used.

Sri Lanka

Foreigners To Buy 100 Percent Shares of Companies

BK2007124892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The government will permit non-nationals and approve foreign firms and corporate bodies to purchase shares in Sri Lankan companies up to 100 percent of the issued capital subject to certain restrictions. This comes in the wake of the recent legislative amendments abolishing the 100 percent transfer tax imposed on transfer of assets between nationals and non-nationals. According to guidelines being issued by the Finance Ministry for this purpose, foreign investors will be allowed to purchase up to 100 percent shares in any retail trade if the capital is more than U.S. $1 million. The value of net purchases by foreigners was over 25 percent of the value of total market turnover in the second half of 1991.

According to the new measures, this relaxation will not be applicable for foreign investments in companies incorporated for money lending, pawn brokering, business providing personnel services other than for export sector or tourism sector, and coastal fishing. Foreign investment in companies established for certain purposes will be permitted only to the extent approved by their respective regulatory authorities. These restrictions will apply to areas such as banking, finance, insurance, trading services at the Colombo Stock Exchange, air transportation, coastal shipping, large-scale mechanized gemming, liaison offices of foreign companies, lotteries and certain types of industrial undertakings.

Article Views Country's 'Economic Miracle'

BK2107033192 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 13 Jul 92 p 13

[Text] An economic miracle is underway in Sri Lanka that promises to transform the impoverished island, once an inward-looking controls-bound enonomy similar to India, into another Singapore in a few years.

Painstaking efforts to open up the economy, forced by poor growth rates, falling incomes and worsening Balance of Payments scenario, initiated 15 years ago have started bearing fruit with foreign investment on the rise.

And, despite nine years of internal strife, that has bled the treasury, the economy is booming.

Real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth in 1991 was five percent, slightly lower than 6.2 percent in 1990, but much higher than the 2.9 percent during 1970-77.

What was more significant was the sharp fall in debt service ratio—from 28 percent to 16 percent in 1990. Foreign investments approved in 1991 totalled Sri Lanka Rs [rupees] 7,021 million, up from Rs 938 million in 1978.

The key to the island nation's success with economic reforms lay in the thorough over haul of policies and its bureaucracy.

Today, the country's top bureaucrats work in close co-operation with private entrepreneurs to push business, remove bottlenecks and attract foreign investors. And, they have much more attractive incentives to lure investors than India.

Despite possessing negligible manufacturing industries, and having to depend on the import of most raw materials, the coutry has been able to attract a host of foreign investors.

Many entrepreneurs from the South Asian countries, Australia and Germany, to name a few, have set up shop using the island as a spring board for exports.

Sri Lanka offers liberal shops which include duty-free import of plant and machinery and raw materials during

the lifetime of the project, tax holidays and exemption of capital gains tax on sale or shares.

Foreigners are allowed to hold 100 percent equity in a company. They can also invest directly on the Columbo Stock Exchange up to 40 percent of the equity in any listed company and repatriate profits without any hitch.

Local businessmen and foreign entrepreneurs say it was the removal of bureaucratic red-tape that provided the chief impetus. At a time when labour costs in the Asian tiger nations and the West were rising steeply, the incentives made the island exceedingly attractive for foreign companies.

From promoting free-trade areas at select locations, Sri Lanka has now made the entire island an export processing zone, according to President Ranesinghe Premadasa, the man credited with pushing reforms.

All foreign investments are routed through a single body, Greater Colombo Economic Commission (GCEC), which takes on the responsibility of clearing proposals quickly.

India has many lessons to learn from Sri Lanka. The island has, with relative ease, managed to disperse ventures into remote villages, by setting up infrastructural facilities.

Every year, over the last 14 years, the country has targeted one village for this purpose, pouring in funds to develop infrastructure that's comparable to world standards. Inter Fashion Company Ltd, a German company that makes garments, has its plan atop picturesque Nuwar Eliya, at an altitude of over 8,200 feet. The company, which partly uses textiles supplied by India, retails the product through a chain of shops in the West.

South Korean entrepreneurs abound in Sri Lanka. They say productivity was comparable to that in South Asia while labour was cheap. Their entry also brought in incentive-linked wages, or bonuses. Years of socialistic teachings were an obstacle for workers to take advantage of this.

Said a South Korean entrepreneur making cut flowers, exported to the United States: "We found that all tables had the same number of flowers. It was constant. This was because workers, fearing that their colleagues might lose jobs, preferred to help out the weak ones than claim bonuses!"

He said the company told workers that their attitude was tantamount to "sabotage" and finally got them round to improving competitiveness.

How come business is booming in a war-torn country? Wasn't the Government fighting a fierce battle with the Tamil Tigers? Is the country safe for investment? Foreign entrepreneurs who have been in the island for nearly 12 years say they have never felt threatened by the strife. The fighting was confined to the northern region, and partly in the eastern port city of Trincomalee. The rest of the country was peaceful.

With its limited domestic market, Sri Lanka is basically export oriented. "We want the whole country to contribute to the process of export-led growth," says Mr. Premadasa. "To facilitate this, we have made the whole island an export processing zone."

From being primarily an exporter of primary produce of the plantation sector, industrial exports have taken a quantum leap. As per figures of the central Bank, industrial exports jumped from $342 million 1980 to $1.01 billion in 1990.

One of the significant areas of development has been the opening up of the stock market. In 1991, 58 regional funds (floated abroad) have been approved to invest on the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE). During June-December, 190, non-residents bought shares worth Rs. 398 million, while sales accounted for only Rs. 7 million. In the first half of 1991, purchases by foreigners totalled Rs. 863 million and sales Rs. 204 million; in the latter half this was respectively Rs. 901 million and Rs. 232 million.

"Private entrepreneurs are taking over economic management from state dominated activities," according to Central Bank of Ceylon Governor H.N.S. Karunatilake. "Even today over 30 percent of the economy is owned by the state... but its output under the gross domestic product is not substantial. The bulk of the real economic growth today is generated in the private sector."

Sri Lanka now sees vast benefits accruing to it from unshackling the economy. "We're poor because we want to stay poor," says Industries, Science, and Technology Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe. "Your must not be frightened of foreign investment. We have to look at the world as a business opportunity, not as a threat."

And, backing the political leadership in its efforts to accelerate growth were the bureaucrats, all of whom candidly admit that the controls were bad for the welfare of country.

India, where reforms are taking place at a snail's pace, would do well by taking a leaf out of Sri Lanka's book.

President Formally Recognizes Georgia

BK1707113192 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Sri Lanka has decided to accord formal recognition to the Republic of Georgia with immediate effect. The president has sent a message of felicitation to the chairman of the Presidium of the State Council of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze. In this message, the president says that the people and the Government of Sri Lanka join him in welcoming the Republic of Georgia to the international comity as a sovereign and independent state. The president points out that he is looking forward to the two countries working closely together in the years ahead to develop bilateral relations for mutual benefit.